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PART XII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

April 1877.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

Part XII.

No. 1.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 18. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 20, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I addressed to Mr. Jocelyn on the 14th instant, reporting the arrival here of Constantinidi and Wassa Effendis, Mustechars, Christian Sub-Governors, for the Vilayets of Salonica and Cossova respectively.

I should report that the Mustechar of the Vilayet of Salonica has been appointed by the Porte as Extraordinary Commissioner to inquire into the outrages at Potzarsko, and that he left Salonica early this morning for that village.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March 14, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Constantinidi Effendi, the newly appointed Mustechar, Christian Sub-Governor, of this Vilayet, arrived here yesterday morning, and was received with the honours due to his office and rank.

Immediately after landing he waited on the Governor-General, and later in the day the principal members of the local administration called on him.

This afternoon he paid a visit to Her Majesty's Consulate, and I availed myself of the opportunity to refer to the Potzarsko outrages, when he told me that he was the bearer of instructions from the Grand Vizier to attend seriously to the case, and that he was determined to do so.

Wassa Effendi, the Christian Sub-Governor of the new Vilayet of Cossova, also arrived here in the same steamer as Constantinidi Effendi, and will leave this by to-morrow's train for Pristina, the head-quarters of this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 2.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Salonica, March 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Mr. Jocelyn, relative to the alleged enrolment of Bashi-Bazouks in the district of Veria, and to the movements of Greek brigands in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, March 20, 1877.

Sir,

HAVING heard on the 16th instant that the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor) of Veria was enrolling Bashi-Bazouks to send in pursuit of the brigands, I immediately communicated the report to the Mustechar of this vilayet, in a letter, of which I inclose a copy; and I have since received from the Pasha of Salonica the copy of a telegram which reached him on the 17th instant from the Kaïmakam of Veria, in answer to the inquiry his Excellency addressed to him in reference to this subject. I also inclose a translation of this telegram.

We have no recent news of the movements of the Greek brigands. Captain Synge, my correspondent in the district of Veria, writes to me as follows on the subject:—

"There is no fresh news of the brigands. A patrol of forty men (volunteers from Yenidjé) were quartered in this village (Tricovista) a few days ago. They were very orderly and well-behaved, although they are all away from their work, and I believe receive no pay whatever.

"Their commander wanted to billet his men in parties of ten per house, but when I said that it was rather hard on the villagers, and there being nothing to authorize such excessive precaution, he scattered them in smaller parties. This party patrols this side of the marsh, and a similar party to the north-western side; but there is no reason to believe that there are any brigands in these parts, but that they are confined to the hills.

"To-day they (the authorities) collected an extra tax from the village of some 900 piastres, for which they gave papers for various sums to be redeemed in future.

"Every one hopes for peace, and I sincerely trust that it may so end."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Consul Blunt to Costantinidi Effendi.

(Particulière.)

Chère Excellence,

JE viens d'apprendre d'une source que je crois bonne, qu'à Veria on est à inscrire de Bashi-Bazouks pour expédier contre les brigands; que ces irréguliers seront placés sous les ordres d'un certain Mustapha Comata; et qu'il y a deux jours, trente Bashi-Bazouks, Gheghas, Albanais, sont arrivés à Veria de Seltidjé pour être enrollés aussi.

L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique m'avait télégraphiée, il y a quelques jours, que le Gouvernement Impérial avait transmis des ordres au Pacha de Salonique de ne pas avoir recours aux Bashi-Bazouks dans la poursuite de brigands; ainsi, j'ai peine à croire que le Kaïmakam de Veria a été autorisé d'en faire usage des services de ces irréguliers.

Inutile que j'indique à votre Excellence l'imprudence et tout le mal qui résultera de la conduite du Caïmacam, et je m'impresse de vous prier de vouloir en parler au Gouverneur-Général, qui je suis sur invitera le Caïmacam en question de se conformer strictement aux ordres du Gouvernement Impérial.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

The Kaïmakam of Veria to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)
Veria, le 17 *Mars*, 1877.

EN réponse au télégramme de votre Excellence en date d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de rapporter qu'il est inexact que l'on soit en train d'enroller des Bashi-Bazouks à Veria.

Pourtant, en conformité des ordres télégraphiques du Ministre de l'Intérieur, et que votre Excellence m'a transmis, l'autorité locale a fait des annonces pour faire inscrire des zaptiehs (gendarmes) temporaires, mais jusqu'à ce jour personne ne s'est présenté.

En outre vingt Bashi-Bazouks, sous les ordres d'Abdullah Agha, expédié ici par le Gouverneur de Monastir, avant hier, ont été renvoyés avec défense de sejourner dans ce caza (district).

Je dois ajouter que la Garde Nationale de Yenidjeh n'est nullement propre au service de police contre le brigandage, et qu'à l'heure qu'il est une parfaite tranquillité existe dans ce district.

(Signé) CAIMACAM OF VERIA.

No. 3.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 20. Political.)
Salonica, March 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the telegram which the Committee of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" at Salonica addressed on the 14th instant to the Grand Vizier, upon the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 3.

The Committee of "Alliance Israélite Universelle" at Salonica to Grand Vizier.

Salonique, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Mars*, 1877.

LES Soussignés membres du Comité de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle à Salonique félicitent votre Altesse pour la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie; expriment sincère reconnaissance pour avoir obtenue égalité de traitements des Israélites Serbes; et prient votre Altesse de vouloir déposer aux pieds de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'expression de notre respectueux devouement et les vœux que nous formons pour la prospérité et la gloire de Sa Majesté et de son Empire.

(Signé) MISRACHI.
ALLATINI.
Dr. PERERA.
SAIAS.
FERNANDEZ.
ABRAMINO.
MODIANO.
MORPURGO.
NEHAMA.
LEON MODIANO.
MATALON.

No. 4.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 49. Confidential.)
Athens, March 24, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING received this morning a private letter from Mr. Consul Blunt of Salonica, under date of the 22nd instant, informing me that it was stated in a telegram from

Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney of the preceding day that the real chiefs of the intended rising in Epirus are at Corfu, and that the Lakka Chiefs have agreed to carry ammunition from the coast to their hills, I thought it might be of importance to communicate the information to M. Deligeorges, and I sent to inquire of him at what time I could find him at home.

He called upon me shortly afterwards, and I then read to him extracts from Mr. Blunt's letter, and from previous despatches relating to the projected rising, and suggested that he should take steps to prevent an occurrence which would be a great source of danger and of embarrassment to the Hellenic Government.

M. Deligeorges appeared to be fully alive to the importance of the question, but to be quite at a loss as to what steps he could take under the peculiar circumstances in which he was now placed. He had only been in office for a few days, during which he had been required to prepare various bills, and to take part in daily discussions in the Chamber, depending upon the casual support of first one party and then another, as no single party could command a majority.

He might be defeated to-day or to-morrow, and whilst his tenure of office might thus be a question of hours, he could not make any changes in the public offices either in Athens or in the departments, which were all filled with the political partizans of M. Commoundouros, from whom he could expect no support, and in whom he could place no confidence. He declared that his position was intolerable, that the King would give him no support or encouragement, on the ground that the Chamber had sent him to His Majesty, and that he was not the Minister of His Majesty's choice, and must stand or fall according to the votes of the Chamber, and that in the meantime the administration of the country was at a complete standstill. The present session must come to its natural end in a week's time, but the different parties required that there should shortly afterwards be an extra session, and as this was also desired by the King he had been obliged to consent to it.

Upon finding that there was nobody at Corfu to whom M. Deligeorges could confide the delicate and confidential task of obtaining information respecting the leaders of the intended movement, who are stated to be in that island, I suggested the Hellenic Consul at Janina, as a person who might perhaps be usefully employed in the matter, and M. Deligeorges promised to place himself in confidential communication with that gentleman if he found that there was a cypher at the Janina Consulate.

Your Lordship will gather from the above, taken in connection with my despatch No. 43 of the 15th instant, respecting the empty state of the Treasury, that deplorable results may ensue if the present uncertainty and administrative anarchy are allowed to prevail for much longer.

M. Deligeorges is at the head of two important departments, that of the Interior and that of Foreign Affairs, and he has scarcely had time to visit either of them, and certainly not to take a superintending charge of either of them, owing to the incessant Parliamentary work which has been exacted from him ever since the formation of his Cabinet, all parties falling upon him, as it were, with a view either to upset him, or to force him to do their bidding.

With respect to the supposed attempt to organize an insurrectionary movement in Epirus, I don't see what further step I can at present take to prevent it, after having confidentially warned M. Deligeorges of it. To warn my Ottoman colleague might give rise to a sanguinary massacre of the persons implicated, a risk which, after the horrible occurrences of last year, it would not do to incur.

During my interview with M. Deligeorges, I also spoke to him of the information which Mr. Blunt had given to me respecting the revival of brigandage upon the frontier, and of the suspected machinations of M. Leonidas Bulgaris. It was this person who was principally instrumental in organising the absurd demonstration of Bulgarian masons during General Ignatiew's visit to Athens, and who afterwards went on board the Russian gunboat to take leave of the General. He is looked upon as a Russian Agent, and he has no longer any influence here; but he may very possibly have been supplied with money from a source which need not be named, for the purpose indicated by Mr. Blunt, and have thereby regained sufficient temporary influence for such a purpose.

I inclose an extract from Mr. Blunt's letter, to which I referred at the commencement of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Stuart.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Salonica, March* 22, 1877.

I HAVE just received a telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, in cypher, of yesterday's date, stating that the real Chiefs of the intended rising in Epirus are at Corfu; that Aravandinos, Krustali, and Kapcas are the leaders at Janina, and that the Lakka Chiefs have agreed to carry ammunition from the coast to their hills. Mr. Blakeney gets his information from M. Kypriotis, our Consular Agent at Janina, a Greek and native of the place I believe, and he has exceptional means of getting information I should think.

No. 5.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 24, 1877.

I TOOK an opportunity of mentioning to M. Deligeorges, when he was with me this morning, that your Lordship had within the last few days instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to call the attention of the Porte to the turbulent conduct of the Circassian colonists in the Greek Provinces of Turkey, and to point out the impolicy of arousing the resentment of the Greeks and the indignation of Europe by establishing colonies of persons of such lawless character.

M. Deligeorges expressed his gratitude to your Lordship for the advice which Her Majesty's Government had thus given to the Porte. He reminded me that when he was in office four years ago he had requested me to endeavour to prevent the establishment of such Circassian colonies, and that Sir Henry Elliot had then obtained a promise from the Porte that no more would be sent, but that this promise had been disregarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 6.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March* 31, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador at Vienna reports General Ignatiew to have told him that the Prince of Montenegro would be found ready to desist from his demands for Nichsich, and be satisfied with the district of Kuci.

Montenegrin Delegates do not appear to be aware of this.

No. 7.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

(Telegraphic) *Pera, March* 31, 1877, 11·50 P.M.

PORTE having learnt from Rome conditions proposed by Russia that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh, I sounded the Grand Vizier to-day as to his intentions.

His Highness did not appear averse to the step provided it were not considered humiliating by the country, and the Protocol contained nothing derogatory to the dignity of Turkey.

He felt, however, very anxious as to the possible return of General Ignatiew, as he considered it would be no easy matter for the Sultan to receive him as Ambassador after the unfriendly line of policy which he had never ceased to pursue towards this Empire.

No. 8.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

Vienna, April 1, 1877, 9·25 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING from Monson dated yesterday:—

"(For the Foreign Office.)
"(Confidential.)
"With reference to my telegram of yesterday I find that General Ignatiew holds that the Kutchi should be retained by Montenegro, and Nichsich and the Douga Pass by Turkey.

"My Austrian colleague this morning advised Prince Nicholas to question Russia directly as to her views. He told His Highness that if Russia would not support the claim for Nichsich the Austrian Government could not do so further. He suggested that His Highness might content himself with portions of the south-eastern and south-western corners of the plain of Nichsich, bounded respectively by the Mostanica and the Fraeanica Rivers, and relinquish his claim to the rest of the Nichsich district and to the Douga Pass, but that he should maintain his claim to the Kutchi and refuse to cede the Vassoievitchi. Finally, he reminded His Highness that the condition of the refugees rendered a speedy decision imperative.

"It seems that Prince Nicholas gave no clue to his intentions, reserving for the moment any expression of opinion.

"I believe with my Austrian colleague that His Highness' indecision is caused by the idea that hostilities between Russia and Turkey are still not impossible, and that he will not yield, if he yields at all, about Nichsich until the same Power which has hitherto encouraged his territorial aspirations explicitely tells him that he must renounce them."

No. 9.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

Vienna, April 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to Monson's telegram of yesterday, forwarded to-day, I have informed him of signature of Protocol, and of everything being arranged between England and Russia.

No. 10.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1, 6 P.M.)

Vienna, April 1, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I CALLED at Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day, at Under-Secretary's request, to enable Count Andrassy to compare substance of your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday with Count Beust's reports; but as his Excellency had been sent for by the Emperor, I did not see him. I am told, however, by the Under-Secretary, that he has expressed much satisfaction at the signature of the Protocol, and considers that, though he has made no declaration on the subject, it will cease to be binding on Austria-Hungary on its becoming null and void between Great Britain and Russia.

His Excellency will leave on Tuesday for his estate in Hungary, and will be absent for a week.

No. 11.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, April 1, 1877, 3·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
COUNT BEUST communicated to me a telegram from Count Andrassy stating that General Ignatiew told Turkish Ambassador at Vienna that he considered it a point of

No. 11*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 111 A.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, April 1, 1877.

COUNT BEUST has stated to me that he has learnt by telegraph from Count Andrassy that General Ignatiew informed the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna that he considers it to be a point of honour for the Porte not to cede Nichsich, but that he strongly advised that the territory of Kuci should be given up, and believed that Montenegro would be satisfied with that concession.

Count Andrassy had expressed the opinion that an endeavour should be made to induce the Porte to cede Kuci, to give up the idea of an exchange as regards Vassoyevic, and to offer satisfactory guarantees respecting the return of the refugees to their homes.

I have to-day requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to communicate this information to Mr. Monson, and to direct him to support any representations which may be made by the Austrian and Russian Governments with the view of inducing Prince Nicholas to moderate his demands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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honour for the Porte not to cede Nichsichs, but that he strongly advised them to give up the territory of Kuci which he believed would satisfy Montenegro.

Count Andrassy thinks we should endeavour to induce the Porte to cede Kuci, to abandon idea of an exchange as regards Vassoyevic, and to offer sufficient guarantees for the return of the refugees.

Inform Mr. Monson, who should support any representations made by Austria and Russia, to moderate the demands of Montenegro.

No. 12.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 224.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1877.

THE Austrian Ambassador in London communicated to me a telegram from Count Andrassy stating that General Ignatiew had said to the Turkish Ambassador that he considered it was a point of honour for the Porte not to cede Nichsichs to Montenegro, but that he strongly advised the Turkish Government to concede the territory of Kuci, which would, as he believed, satisfy the Montenegrins.

Count Andrassy is of opinion that endeavours should accordingly be made to induce the Turkish Government to endeavour to meet the wishes of Montenegro by ceding Kuci, by abandoning the idea of an exchange as regards Vassoyevic and by offering sufficient guarantees for the return of the refugees.

I have therefore to instruct you to use your best efforts towards promoting a settlement of this matter in the manner indicated above, if you find your Austrian and Russian colleagues supporting this view, and the Montenegrin Delegates willing to accept it as a satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 13.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 1, 1877, 9 P.M.

TELEGRAMS of yesterday received and communicated.

The Italian Government will be prepared to send back their Minister to Constantinople as soon as an Ambassador from Her Majesty proceeds there.

No. 14.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Saturday last, the 10th instant, was the day fixed by the authorities for the election of the Cretan Deputies to the Ottoman General Assembly. The votes were to be given by those members of the different Administrative Councils who are elected by the people, of whom three of either community sit in each Council. The authorities had for a long time been bringing all their influence to bear on the Christian members in the hope of overcoming their repugnance to vote, but it was well known that those sitting in the Councils at Canea and at the four sandjaks would prove obstinate, and the event showed that not only these but ten out of the thirteen Kaza Medjlises refused to record their votes. The total result was fifty-one Mussulman to seven Christian voters, and two of the latter subsequently resigned, protesting that they had been deceived by the authorities as to the nature of the election. The Christians are somewhat elated at having thus thrown obstacles in the way of the new Constitution, which from the beginning had no chance of being accepted by them. They have now so little faith in the stability of their Government, and seem so to count upon the outbreak this summer of an insurrection in their midst, that I am told that, contrary to their usual custom, they are disposing of nearly all their olive oil and converting it into ready money, keeping only a few months' instead of a year's supply for their own consumption. At

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the last insurrection they lost most of their family stores when they were driven from their villages, and they are unwilling to expose themselves to similar losses again. They show a feverish anxiety to know what will be the upshot of the present estrangement between Russia and Turkey, feeling certain that a rupture between them will be the signal for a rising here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 15.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 12. Political.)
Erzeroom, March 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to-day, detailing the atrocities perpetrated by some soldiers on the Christians of three villages in the district of Gumushané.

I inclose also a copy of a letter I have addressed to the Governor-General on the subject.

It appears that a band of Redifs, belonging to the districts of Melet, Iskiasor, and Ebesk were marching to Ezeroum under the orders of a certain Shukri Effendi; they reached the village of Ghelin Pertek on the 7th February. This village is composed of Christians and Mussulmans, and, as is the custom where any part of the population is Mussulman, the heads of the village are Turks. These quartered 125 men on the Christians, and 45 were taken into Mussulman houses. A demand for food was at once made on the Christians, and was complied with; money was then asked for and given. The troops then got hold of the priest of the village and maltreated him. Afterwards they began abusing and beating all the male Christians they could find, and entering the women's portion of the houses commenced outraging the women and violating the girls. Three young women were so brutally treated by about sixty soldiers that they were reported dying when the letters, which I have seen, relating these atrocities were sent to the authorities here.

From this village the soldiers proceeded to the village of Kielakhboor. There they perpetrated similar excesses, descerated the Greek church, pulled down the church bell and called to Mussulman prayers from the place where it stood.

The village of Hosberek received similar treatment as regards the ill-usage of the men and the ravishing of women.

Reports of these atrocities would have probably reached this many days earlier had the villages not been under the jurisdiction of the Pasha of Trebizonde, to whom Gumushané belongs; and the victims appealed for justice to the authorities at Gumushané, and it was only on being told that the case must go before the authorities at Erzeroom, as the culprits were at Erzeroom, that they sent their complaints hither.

Ismail Pasha, our Governor-General and Acting Commander-in-chief, seems to regard these atrocities with perfect calmness; he appears to be quite confident that no strict inquiry will ever be instituted, either into the case itself, or into the steps he may have taken to bring the guilty to justice, but to save appearances he has ordered a Benbashi (Major) to go to the villages and make an investigation, and it is more than probable that with the report of this officer the matter will drop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Jocelyn.

Erzeroom, March 14, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ONE hundred and seventy-five recruits, commanded by officer named Shukri, on way to Erzeroom, stopped at Ghelinpertek, Kilaboor, and Hosberek, villages of Gumushané district, descerated church, maltreated priest, beat the Christians, outraged women and girls. Three women violated by about sixty soldiers were left dying. Gumushané authorities refuse protection; villages are deserted. Christians, fearing massacre, have fled. Military authorities here supine. Christians begin to suffer severely; dread opening their shops. Acts of oppression and cruelty occur daily.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Consul Zohrab to the Governor-General of Erzeroom.

Erzeroom, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Mars*, 1877.

Excellence,

J'AI appris avec bien du regret qu'une compagnie d'environ 170 soldats venant de Sivas, en arrivant aux villages de Hosberek, Ghelinpertek, et Kielaboor, dans le district de Gumushané, le $\frac{2}{7}$ Février, se sont livrés à des excès et à des cruautés qui ne peuvent êtres appelées que des atrocités les plus horribles.

Il paraît que ces soldats à leur arrivée dans ces villages ont commencés leurs méfaits par un acte de sacrilège en désécrant une église et en détruisant le clocher; ensuite ils ont saisi le prêtre, qu'ils ont maltraité cruellement. Après cela ils ont outragés plusieurs femmes et filles, parmi lesquelles se trouvait trois jeunes femmes qui ont été violées par 60 soldats, qui n'étaient relachées que quand elles étaient mourantes.

Je voudrais bien croire que cette accusation est une calomnie et que l'on fut dans le cas de prouver que les soldats Turcs ne furent point capables de telles horreurs; mais malheureusement l'accusation faite est basée sur des fondements trop solides pour être répoussées, et je ne peux qu'exprimer mon vif regret que votre Excellence ait considéré cette accusation d'un caractère si trivial que l'investigation par un Binbashi fut assez et qu'un seule officier de ce grade vient d'être ordonné de se rendre sur le lieu pour faire l'enquête.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. ZOHRAB.

No. 16.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 14 Political.)
Erzeroom, March 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that four members for the Turkish Parliament have left for the capital. They are Hadgee Raouf Bey, Mussulman, Ahmet Effendi, Mussulman, Daniel Effendi, Armenian, Hamazas Effendi, Armenian.

These members have been elected by the Medjlises (Councils) of Erzeroom, Kars, Bayezid, Van, Moush, Ottee, and Erzingjian; the people have had no voice in the choice. The elections were made by vote of the members of the Medjlises, each individual giving on a paper the names of two persons—a Christian and a Mussulman. No person having less than ten votes could be eligible.

I am not in a position to offer any remarks on the persons elected, as they are unknown to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 17.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 15. Political.)
Erzeroom, March 15, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my telegram to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople of the 14th instant I refer to the supineness of the military authorities at Erzeroom, and I report that the Christians of the town begin to suffer severely at the hands of the military.

It would have been unreasonable to expect perfect tranquillity to reign at such a time as the present, when towns and villages are crowded with half-wild men in soldiers' uniforms; and the Christians would bear with much hard treatment under these exceptional circumstances without complaining were it not that cruel treatment and oppression originate, not with the men, but with the officers, who thus set the evil example to the men, and this example is very naturally followed.

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In this town ill-usage of the Christians is daily increasing. Officers go to shops, and take goods at their own prices; the least remonstrance on the part of the owners results in abuse and blows; people are beaten, and the Christian religion is openly cursed. This is done in the presence of the soldiers who crowd the streets, and they follow the example. On the part of the Government nothing is done to check these abuses, and the impunity allowed to lawlessness must soon bring great suffering on the Christians.

In the villages officers and soldiers act just as they please, and the accounts of injustice and cruelty daily brought to me are most revolting.

This condition of things must continue as long as such men as Ismail Pasha, the present Governor-General, are employed. Ismail Pasha is an ignorant fanatic, who believes that the punishment of a Mussulman for misdeeds against a Christian would be a deadly sin; no remonstrance will induce him to protect the Christians against Mussulman fanaticism, which is pure religious fervour to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 18.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 22.) *Scutari, March* 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have ascertained from a confidential source that Dervish Pasha received this day a telegram from the Grand Vizier, informing him that the demands put forward by the Montenegrin delegates have been found inadmissible, and that, consequently, the recommencement of hostilities is probable.

The Grand Vizier states in his telegram that the Porte has determined, if war breaks out again, to crush Montenegro, and His Highness requests Dervish Pasha to let him know with what force he could effect this object.

Dervish Pasha has replied that it would be advisable for him to have the supreme command of the forces in the Herzegovina as well as here, and in that case he would undertake, with a slight augmentation of the existing troops, to overcome Montenegro. He has sent a list of a few battalions of *élite* which he would require to be forwarded here.

The result of the fighting during last summer, both on this side and in the Herzegovina, does not justify Dervish Pasha in counting upon the Montenegrins being vanquished so easily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 19.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 23.) *Scutari, March* 20, 1877.

My Lord,

DURING the last few days I have been busily engaged in inducing the Commander-in-chief here to act up to the arrangements, effected through Mr. Monson's mediation at Cettigné, for the revictualling of Nichsich by way of Spuz, and for the rapid transit up the Lake of Scutari of the Indian corn intended for Montenegro.

Having found Dervish Pasha greatly indisposed to facilitate either of these objects, I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople explaining that the Commander-in-chief here ought to be made to understand that he should not oppose the execution of the mutual concessions made by Turkey and Montenegro, and that the recent boisterous weather having delayed the transit of the grain it would be well if the Turkish Government would lend Montenegro sufficient maize to relieve its immediate pressing wants.

The action evidently taken by Mr. Jocelyn, I am happy to say, produced the desired change in Dervish Pasha's conduct, and he has since enabled me to inform Mr. Monson that the authorities here are not only hastening the transit of the maize, but have, furthermore, dispatched from their own stores 15,000 okes of grain to Rieka.

Dervish Pasha has been very anxious to obtain greater facilities than those accorded from Montenegro in the shape of pack animals for the conveyance of the provisions from

Spuz to Nichsich, and is indisposed to believe that Prince Nicholas cannot supply him with more than 200.

At his request I telegraphed to Mr. Monson that the Pasha would be glad if Prince Nicholas would depute M. Stefan Radonich to come here and make all arrangements concerning the revictualling of Nichsich, and His Highness has immediately fallen in with this wish.

If I find that the Commander-in-chief, after his meeting with M. Radonich, is still disposed to resent what he considers a mere act of ill-will on the part of the Prince in not supplying more than 200 pack animals, I shall proceed to Rieka to put myself in direct communication with Mr. Monson, and I have no doubt we shall be able to find a means of satisfying Dervish Pasha, whose personal vanity is perpetually interfering with the course of matters which would otherwise run smooth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 20.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Scutari, March* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to the Mirdite affairs, I have the honour to report that, although apparent quiet exists, the Turkish authorities are evidently meditating some active measures, as the troops at Miet have been considerably increased within the last few days. There are now there six battalions of infantry and a battery of six mountain guns.

As yet no Turkish troops have ventured to try whether the high roads in Mirdicia are open, and only two very insignificant convoys of provisions have reached the garrison of Puka, one from Prisrend and one from this side, through the assistance of Mirdites, who have been employed for the service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 21.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 36.)
(Decypher.)

My Lord, *Tiflis, March* 15, 1877.

GRAND DUKE has gone to Poti and frontier, to inspect works and troops. Zugdidi, on road to Soukoum Kalé, is being fortified. Interpreter not yet arrived. After his return I hope to be able to send accurate information of the positions of the chief part of the 38th and 20th Caucasian Divisions, should they not be on frontier, as is now supposed. There will be at Akalzikt four battalions of 39th; westward, three line battalions, one fortress battalion, and two battalions of the 19th Division. This was the number of regular infantry mentioned to me the other day by a person returned from interior. Under the conditions there will be but 26,000 men at Alexandropol and 3,400 men at Achalkalaki. I will telegraph when properly informed. It must be recollected that the troops are being constantly changed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. J. RICKETTS.

No. 22.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 40.)
(Decypher.)

My Lord, *Tiflis, March* 19, 1877.

GRAND DUKE has gone from Poti to Nicholaieff, Aya, and Ozergel. There are no doubt the heavy guns on island near Poti formerly reported. The troops here are to be sent to the front as soon as the others arrive. From all I learn, I do not think that this army will be able to take the field until the commencement of May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 23.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 4. Political.)
Trebizond, March 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday the news reached this town that serious abuses had been committed on Christians in the district of Gumushané by Rediffs, on their march from the neighbouring provinces to Erzeroum.

After useless inquiries from the Greek and Armenian communities, who knew nothing on the subject, I applied to the Governor-General himself, who was kind enough to place before me all the documents he had received by yesterday's post. I have extracted from these papers the following full details, which show that the sufferers are Christians as well as Mussulmans:—

1. A letter dated 3rd/15th March addressed to the Governor-General by the Greek Archbishop of Erzeroum, under whose jurisdiction are the villages which have suffered. He states that on the 26th January/7th February, at the village of Ghelin Pertek in the Caza of Kelkit, a dependency of Gumushané, a company of 170 Rediffs, under the command of a certain Shukri, carried away five sheep, forty fowls, eighteen pair of stocks, and 275 piastres, and smashed the doors and windows of houses for the purpose of outraging women; that after having been given to eat they thrashed the priest, deprived him of his cap, passed the entrails of a sheep round his neck, and used him as a beast, a soldier having mounted on his back, in which condition he was paraded in the streets of the village; that these same soldiers proceeded afterwards to the village of Kilaboor, where they attacked the church, pulled down the bell, and otherwise misbehaved themselves; that the inhabitants having uselessly applied to the Mutessarif of Gumushané for redress, the matter was brought before him (the Archbishop of Erzeroum), who referred it to the Governor of that town; and that this functionary had given immediate orders, and sent a major to make an investigation in the affair.

The Archbishop adds that in the village of Lermonné, district of Cavatir, three Mussulmans outraged the wife of a certain Theodori, for which act he was unable to obtain satisfaction from the Mutessarif of Gumushané, and that he conveys these facts to the knowledge of the Governor-General of this town in order to obtain redress.

2. A report (Masbata) dated 12th February/2nd March from the Kaïmakam and Council of Shiran to the Mutessarif of Gumushané, stating that four days previously, at the village of Oulon Shiran fifty or sixty Rediffs under Hussein and Suliman Isanoushes (belonging to a body of 460 Rediffs commanded by Osman Aya, a Uzbashi), broke open the doors of seven or eight Greek and Armenian houses, and robbed 1,535 piastres, 35 pair of stocks, 12 pair of sandals, 40 fowls, and 3 cows, which they slaughtered; a Persian shawl, and a horse, on which a soldier named Mehmed rode away; and that they burned, at the same time, books for a value of 300 piastres, belonging to the Christian schools. The report ends by saying that similar disorders are perpetrated by all the Rediffs passing through their villages, and that the sufferers are Christian as well as Mussulmans, and that if the recruits, instead of being sent several hundred together, were dispatched only 100 at a time, these disorders would perhaps be avoided.

3. Another report dated 21st February (5th March) from and to the same authorities as above, reporting that fifty or sixty Rediffs escorted by a mounted policeman named Kara Sherif having arrived at the village of Bayash, in the Caza of Shivan, a few of the men got up in the night, entered some Christian houses either by forcing the doors, or through the chimneys, and carried away a sholvar (breeches), an aba (country cloth jacket), four pair of stocks, three pair of sandals, and three pair of gaiters; that they proceeded afterwards to the village of Keubator, half an hour distant, and entered the house of a Christian, who treated them well, provided them with food, but on leaving they robbed him of a shawl, of a shirt, and of a gown; and that the authorities were compelled to turn the Rediffs out of the village by the zaptiés at their disposal.

4. A third report from the Kaïmakam and Council of Kelkit, complaining of disorders perpetrated at all times by the Rediffs on their passage through their district, especially at Hozberek, and two other villages. They then report that on the 27th February (11th March), as 180 Rediffs, under the command of a certain Kassan Aga were nearing the village of Tashova, the chief of the municipality went to meet them outside, and begged them, as there was scarcity of provisions, to proceed to another village, but as it was late, and as the Rediffs were tired and hungry, they entered the village, plundered a baker's shop of its bread and money, thrashed the owner, and as the Kaïmakam wanted to oppose these acts of violence, the Rediffs called out that they were going to give him a

sound correction, a threat, however, which was not carried out; but they pillaged the shops in the bazar, breaking open the doors of those which were shut up; they possessed themselves of all the sheep, fowls, and geese which they met in the streets, and as most of the inhabitants, the women especially, ran away from the village, they entered the houses and rifled them of their contents; they thrashed all the men they met on their way, amongst others Hussein Aga, a Government functionary, whose son in trying to defend his father was severely wounded; they forced their way into Topal Agadji's house, which they despoiled entirely, so maltreating the owner that he now lies seriously ill; that the young men of the village formed into a body and compelled the soldiers to evacuate the village; and finally that they beg that a squadron of cavalry, or a company of regulars be sent to protect them in future against similar acts of violence on the part of the Rediffs.

The Governor of Erzeroum has sent a major, and the Governor-General of Trebizond is forwarding the Colonel in command of the police forces in this province to investigate the real state of things, with the assistance of a Mixed Commission to be appointed on the spot.

I shall not fail to communicate to your Lordship the result of the inquest when it is finished.

It appears from official information that a soldier has died lately in the hospital of Baïbourt, in consequence of wounds received in one of the above-mentioned villages, perhaps at Tashova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 24.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 64. Political.)
Cettigné, March 24, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 63 of yesterday, inclosing copies of correspondence respecting the provisioning of Nichsich, and the transport of grain to Montenegro, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of further telegrams, exchanged yesterday between Mr. Consul Green and myself, from which your Lordship will see that I have assured Dervish Pasha that I am convinced that on the side of Montenegro the terms of the compact are being carried out in good faith.

Your Lordship will also perceive that Mr. Green will probably be here to-day, and that Prince Nicholas has been so good as to make arrangements for his journey hither from Rieka.

Mr. Green consulted me last week in a private letter as to the expediency of his coming, and I replied that, if no objection were made by higher authority, I for my part should be glad of the opportunity of an interview with him.

Last night I received from Sir Andrew Buchanan a telegram conveying a message from Mr. Green, which, in consequence of the want of means of private communication, to which I have before adverted, had been telegraphed from Scutari to Vienna. This message warns me that Dervish Pasha may make difficulties about the transport of the Montenegrin grain, in revenge for the Prince's refusal to allow the Turks to increase the amount of stores for Nichsich about threefold, as your Lordship will have learned was their intention from the correspondence transmitted in my despatch No. 63 above referred to. Now that the weather has become mild, and other routes practicable, I do not think that Prince Nicholas would so much mind the temporary success of Dervish Pasha's retaliation, especially as it is impossible to believe that his Excellency's malice would extend beyond the interposition of delays, the final impounding of the Montenegrin grain being an act of unjustifiable disregard of obligations contracted, of which I can hardly bring myself to imagine that even he would be capable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 23, 1877, 4:35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
DERVISH PASHA begs me to telegraph that the authorities at Danilograd replied three days ago that they knew nothing about 200 horses, and that no one has since returned to Spuz to conduct first convoy of 300, which has been waiting all this time, whilst from this side grain is daily sent to Ricka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 23, 1877, 6:20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
SHALL probably start early to-morrow for Ricka, but telegraph here answer to previous telegram.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, March 23, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE inspected all the telegrams which have been sent by the Prince's orders to Danilograd, and am in a position to assure Dervish Pasha that the most explicit instructions have been given and acted upon.

The Prefect at Danilograd has been in communication with Hussein Pasha at Podgoritza, and has offered to send him an officer as intermediary. The most precise orders have been given respecting the horses, escorts, and every essential detail; and the money to pay horse hire was sent to-day. News has been received here to-day that the first convoy will start to-morrow.

I have satisfied myself that the agreement is being carried out with most perfect good faith, and that the orders of the Prince were received, understood, and acted upon by the 20th.

Your probable arrival at Ricka to-morrow has been notified to the Prince, and I am requested by His Highness to assure you that you will be welcome. He will send a horse and two guards to Ricka to bring you to Cettigné.

No. 25.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 226.) *Constantinople, March* 25, 1877.

My Lord,
WITH reference to my despatch No. 215 of the 21st instant, I have the the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, inclosing one from the Vice-Consul at Cavalla, containing further particulars with respect to the outrage committed upon a Christian family at Bouloustra near Xanthi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, March 20, 1877.

Sir,
WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, relative to the murders committed at Bouloustra, near Xanthi, I have the honour to inclose a further report, with

one inclosure, which I have just received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla upon this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul Blunt.

Cavalla, le 19 *Mars*, 1877.

Monsieur,
APRES ce que je vous ai écrit à la hâte du bord du "Swiftsure," j'ai reçu de Bouloustra de nouveaux renseignements par lesquels le caractère de l'assassinat vient d'être d'une manière presque certaine dévoilé.

Ahmet Keaja possédait des terres confinantes avec la propriété d'Anastas. Il tacha à plusieurs reprises de s'approprier de quelques arpents de terre appartenants à son voisin. Il eut des querelles dans lesquelles le fils d'Anastas lui tint front vaillamment; et Ahmet, très-mauvais sujet, lui en garda rancune; il s'associa à d'autres malfaiteurs et dans la nuit du Bairamme fit le coup depuis longtemps médité.

La mort d'un des assassins leur empêcha de piller la maison et vider la caisse du malheureux Anastas, qu'on croyait dans le voisinage très-bien fournies.

Kalil Aga, auquel j'ai fait parler par une personne consciencieuse, nie d'avoir employé son influence pour sauver Ahmet, qui n'est pas à son service, l'ayant renvoyé cinq années auparavant comme mauvais sujet et serviteur infidèle.

Il regrette comme tout autre l'assassinat de l'innocente famille d'Anastas, tout en désirant que la justice suive son cours et que les assassins soient punis.

Il sait que Ahmet habitait dans une ferme confinante avec les propriétés d'Anastas, mais lui, Kalil, n'est pas le propriétaire de cette ferme, et il croit qu'elle appartienne à Ahmet lui-même.

Quant à lui, le témoignage de tous les Chrétiens du village de Bouloustra, avec lesquels il est en aimables rapports, possédant un chiflick tout près, pourrait servir dans un moment donné pour prouver qu'il est, et il a été toujours, le défenseur de leurs droits, le secoureur de leurs besoins.

Je crois, M. le Consul, que les déclarations de Kalil soient conformes à la vérité; au moins j'en ai la conviction morale.

En attendant, voyant que la justice *more solito* s'endorme, j'ai cru de mon devoir d'écrire au Mutessarif de Drama pour le reveiller un petit peu, s'il est possible, et je vous envoi une copie du Takrir que je lui ai envoyé, en me réservant de vous faire connaître la réponse aussitôt que je la recevrais.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) D. PECCHIOLI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

Acting Vice-Consul to Mutessarif of Drama, Bouloustra.

Cavalla, le 15 *Mars*, 1877.

Excellence,
LES regrettables événements de Bouloustra ont vivement ému l'opinion publique d'Europe.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter par interim à Cavalla, me fait des demandes pressantes pour savoir si on a encore découvert le caractère de cet assassinat et à quel point se trouve le procès intenté contre les assassins.

Dans cet état de choses, moi, ayant pleine confiance dans votre honorable caractère, plutôt qu'employer des moyens indirects d'investigation, j'aime mieux m'adresser franchement à vous, et je viens vous demander les renseignements que vous serez à même de me donner sur cette malheureuse affaire.

J'espère, Excellence, que vous ferez tous vos efforts afin que ce procès ne traîne pas en longueur selon les mauvaises habitudes des administrations passées, mais pour tranquilliser les Chrétiens de Bouloustra, dans l'intérêt de l'humanité et de la justice, vous ferez tout ce qui est possible afin que le Tribunal de Drama fasse la lumière au plus vite dans ce procès.

Excellence, les amis de votre Gouvernement désirent bien ardemment que dans ces occasions les autorités puissent prouver à l'Europe attentive que l'inauguration de la liberté et la régénération politique de l'Empire Ottoman a, dès à présent, commencé par la bonne administration de la justice.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) Le Gérant du Vice-Consulat.

No. 26.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 228.)
Constantinople, March 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, reporting the appointment of the new Christian Mustechar to act as Commissioner upon the inquiry now being made into the recent outrage at Podzarsko near Vodena.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, March 20, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my cyphered telegram of the 19th instant I have the honour to report that the Mustechar of this vilayet, Costantinidi Effendi, left Salonica this morning for Podzarsko, to which village he has been ordered to proceed by the Grand Vizier, as Extraordinary Commissioner, to inquire into the outrages said to have been committed on the Christians in that village.

His appointment for this service has produced the best possible impression here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 27.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 231.)
Constantinople, March 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st instant I have the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, giving some account of the outrages committed near Adrianople.

Since writing the above-mentioned despatch Mr. Dupuis has visited the scene of the outrages, though I have not yet received a detailed report from him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Jocelyn.

Adrianople, March 20, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to the alleged recent outrage in a village near Adrianople, mentioned in your telegram of this morning, I beg leave to state, that on the 14th instant my assistant Dragoman told me that about fifteen days before, or the end of last month, two Mussulmans, Katrandji, of the village of Bektegides, and Pehlivan of the village of Hantapli, went to the former place and extorted by means of threats a money payment from its inhabitants, and seeing with what facility they were able to obtain the money insisted upon receiving a larger sum. To this second demand the villagers refusing compliance, they were set upon by their assailants, who killed two of the villagers. My

informant added that he had this intelligence from a relative, a resident in Ortakeui, near Bektegides.

I made it my business to inquire of his Excellency the Governor-General what he knew of the affair, and whether it had come to his knowledge, to which he replied that he was not aware of any such circumstance having happened, and appealing to the Mollah for information I received the same reply.

On the receipt of your telegram I made further diligent inquiries, when the brother of my dragoman and others contradicted the reported outrage.

The Italian Consul, however, who, I believe, has business connections with that part of the country, gave me the following version of the affair, viz., that on or about the 1st instant Katrandji and Pehlivan with some others, went armed to the village of Bektegides, when the latter individual in a jocular manner drew his yataghan, and hitting the Chief of the village a blow on the head with it, threatened to kill him if he did not give him money.

In this manner the assailant extorted some 100 piastres from their victims, when it would appear that they left the place, but regretted they did not obtain more. The Italian Consul added that he thought these miscreants were in prison for this offence, either here or in Moustafa Pasha, the district where the occurrence took place, but that at the same time he did not attach much importance to the affair.

I then again called on the Governor-General, and relating to him all I had heard, he urged complete ignorance of the whole transaction, and put it down to the malevolence of certain parties in Adrianople. He however sent for the Ali Bey or Chief of the Zaptiehs, and asked him whether any such occurrence had been reported to him, and also the Chief Kiatib, but they both ignored all knowledge.

This is all that seems to be known here about the affair, but as it is difficult, amidst conflicting statements to arrive at anything positive as to what really did occur, or to get at the truth of the matter, I would suggest that I be authorized to visit the locality to make personal inquiries.

Bektegides is a small Greek village on the Arda, near Ortakeui, and some twelve hours from Adrianople, out of this Vice-Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. DUPUIS.

No. 28.

Major-General Stanton to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 20.)
Munich, March 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that General Ignatiew, who passed through Munich, en route to Vienna, on the evening of the 24th instant, was met at the railway station here by M. d'Ozerow, the Russian Minister, and by the Baron de Werthem, the Prussian Minister, accredited to this Court, who remained conversing with his Excellency until the train again started.

From reports which I have heard of this conversation, General Ignatiew appears to have admitted that he considered the situation as gloomy, but he added that, though the negotiations with England were at present at a standstill, he had not lost all hope of a peaceful solution of the Eastern difficulty being arrived at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. STANTON.

No. 29.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 128.)
St. Petersburgh, March 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I CALLED on Prince Gortchakow this morning and found his Highness somewhat excited under the pressure of business, and the discouraging news he had received from London. He said he had not a moment to give me, that he had nothing to communicate, and that he was in communication with your Lordship through Count Schouvaloff.

His Highness stated that he had instructed Count Schouvaloff to inform your Lordship that he had used all his influence with the Prince of Montenegro in the sense of

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conciliation and moderation, but that the Porte was impracticable in its pretensions, wishing to treat the Prince of Montenegro as a vassal, which rendered any peace impossible.

It was, therefore, for Her Majesty's Government to exert their powerful influence with the Porte to advise a more moderate and conciliatory course without which peace would not be concluded.

His Highness then expatiated with some animation on the efforts made by Russia to obtain a pacific solution, adding that the Imperial Government had now arrived at the utmost limit of concession. Russia, said his Highness, could not disarm until peace was made with Montenegro, and Europe might be thankful for the presence of a Russian army on the frontier, or there would have been long since a renewal of Turkish massacres.

He alluded with evident disappointment to the course taken by Her Majesty's Government, in regard to the Protocol, and seemed to view their decision as closing the door to the possibility of a pacific arrangement.

I observed to his Highness that we had been given to understand that Russia was incurring sacrifices by the expenses of the mobilization which could not be prolonged indefinitely, and that she was desirous of being relieved from this onerous position.

It was with this view that Russia had initiated and proposed the Protocol; and it was with the wish and the view of aiding Russia in their desire for peace that Her Majesty's Government had done all in their power to meet her wishes. But, I said, we had also our interests, and we had to consider public opinion as represented in Parliament. Acting in that sense we had first to secure peace, and the first consideration towards that aim was a disarmament without which peace was not secure.

Prince Gortchakow was too hurried and excited to enter calmly into the question, and our conversation, which only lasted a few minutes, in the presence of Baron Jomini and M. Hamburger, terminated by my stating that, in the event of my receiving any satisfactory intelligence, I should not fail to communicate it to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 30.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, March 28, 1877.

THE discouraging news received from England in regard to the proposed Protocol, and the delicate question of a demobilization of the Russian army which has momentarily suspended the negotiations, has produced and is producing a feeling of great disquietude in the public mind.

The present crisis is one of serious gravity, the more serious as the pacific disposition of the Emperor is represented to me as undergoing a change, and His Majesty as being less hopeful of a satisfactory arrangement.

I am privately informed, and from a source on which I can depend, that the Emperor has been personally annoyed by the condition which was proposed for the demobilization of the Russian forces, and also by the form which this condition was to take.

The Emperor regards it as humiliating to Russia, and will prefer war to its acceptance.

My informant stated that if the condition for demobilization in the form proposed by Majesty's Government is maintained, war is certain, and that the Russian army will cross the Pruth in about three weeks.

I have reason to think that the Imperial Government will be willing to give confidential assurances in regard to an eventual disarmament; but they will never consent to give an official signed document of a nature which they consider as derogatory to their dignity and honour.

I ventured, therefore, to suggest in my telegram of last night that some form might be discovered for these confidential assurances which might equally meet the requirements of Her Majesty's Government whilst safeguarding the Imperial susceptibility.

I am further told that the Emperor is losing patience, and that, since the receipt from London of the proposed condition for the demobilization of the Russian forces, His Majesty has assumed an altered and determined tone.

Unless, therefore, the difficulty in regard to the disarmament can be solved, and the

Protocol signed, it is my conviction that war will be inevitable, and that the Russian armies will march as soon as the weather will permit.

I need not observe to your Lordship on the dangers to the peace of Europe which so grave a state of affairs will produce. The first cannon shot on the Danube will not only excite the fanaticism of the Mussulmans throughout the whole Turkish Empire; but it may also be re-echoed elsewhere, and thus prove to be the spark which will light up a general conflagration, the result and duration of which it is impossible to foresee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 31.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 115. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Berlin, March 26, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109, Confidential, of the 17th instant, reporting Prince Bismarck's opinion that the request of Her Majesty's Government for a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that they will demobilize affected their national dignity, I have the honour to state that that impression appears to have been very generally shared by the German Princes, Generals, Statesmen, and Politicians lately assembled in Berlin to celebrate their Emperor's eightieth birthday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 32.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord,

Berlin, March 30, 1877.

GENERAL IGNATIEW, coming from Vienna, arrived here at 2 P.M. on the 28th instant, and left by the 11 P.M. mail train for St. Petersburgh.

At 6 P.M. the General dined with Prince Bismarck, but he did not ask for an audience of the Emperor, or pay any visits, except to the Russian Ambassador in Berlin.

He is reported to have expressed great satisfaction at his visit to Vienna, and at the cordial reception he had met there.

Count Andrassy had offered his good offices to endeavour to bring about the signature of the Protocol at London, but he, General Ignatiew, expected the remaining difficulties would be overcome by Count Schouvaloff in a very few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 33.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord,

Berlin, March 30, 1877.

I HEARD from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day that Count Münster had telegraphed the latest accounts from London of the state of the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Czar in regard to the Protocol, and his Excellency again repeated that the German Government would be willing to accept and sign any version of that document, which united England and Russia for the maintenance of peace and order in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 34.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 2, 1877, 7 A.M.*

AM I to communicate Protocol to the Porte? Russian Chargé d'Affaires has orders to do so when all his colleagues have received it.

No. 35.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 2, 1877, 8 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Russian Chargé d'Affaires informs me that General Ignatiew has formally denied having spoken to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna with regard to cession of Nichsich in the sense repeated by your Lordship.

No. 36.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Vienna, April 2, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

DEPARTURE of Minister for Foreign Affairs has been postponed for a few days.

He told me to-day that Count Beust is instructed to ask that Mr. Jocelyn should be authorized to give the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires a correct copy of the Protocol, in order that he may join him in communicating it to the Porte.

He expressed some anxiety at peace being allowed to depend so entirely on the issue of the negotiations between the Porte and Montenegro, as Prince Gortchakow says that Russia cannot well employ more pressure than she has already done to induce His Highness to be conciliatory, and General Ignatiew denies at St. Petersburgh what he said to the Turkish Ambassador here respecting Nichsich.

I told him that Monson was instructed to support any representations which may be made by Austria and Russia in favour of an arrangement.

No. 37.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 2, 1877, 7 P.M.*

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"I had an interview this morning with Prince Nicholas, in which I have employed the strongest possible language in support of the advice of my Austrian colleague (who saw His Highness half-an-hour before); appealing by every argument I could think of to induce His Highness to give way about Nichsich, and laying stress upon the fact that now that the Protocol is signed, His Highness could no longer count upon the event of war between Russia and Turkey.

"The Prince desires me to inform your Lordship that he will wait until Thursday in order to learn explicitly from Russia the truth about Nichsich, respecting which he feels that he has been tricked; but that on that day he will order his Delegates to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th ultimo, and if the Porte continues to reject them the Delegates will leave Constantinople.

"In answer to all my representations the Prince said, very courteously, that nothing which I could allege would alter his determination."

No. 38.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 2.)

(Telegraphic.) (Very Confidential.) *Vienna, April 2, 1877, 8 P.M.*

ON our speaking of Montenegro to-day, I said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that I could not believe the Prince of Montenegro would disregard an urgent representation from Russia in favour of peace, and his Excellency answered that was also his opnion. If the Prince will not give way it will probably, therefore, be because he has not been told to do so.

No. 39.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 5.)

Tunis, March 22, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 12th February last, relative to the prolonged stay of the Bey's Envoy at Constantinople, I have the honour to state that, having had occasion to see His Highness, he informed me that my French and Italian colleagues had repeated, in the absence of his Prime Minister, who was indisposed, their observations on the subject, with the evident object of eliciting from him the motives which detained his Envoy at the capital, notwithstanding the termination of his mission.

They intimated that the part which General Rustem took, and was perhaps still taking, in the political affairs of Turkey would seriously compromise the neutrality of the Regency in the event of a war between her and Russia, and they endeavoured, by their remarks, to create apprehensions in the mind of His Highness for the purpose of inducing him to peremptorily recall his Envoy, whom they again censured for having attended the Grand Council which had to consider the proposals of the Conference.

The Bey reiterated the reply which he had given them on a former occasion, to the effect that his Envoy had no instructions from him to take part in the Councils of the Porte, and that he had been ordered to return so soon as he had obtained the answers to the letters he had addressed to the Sultan and the Grand Vizier on the accession of His Majesty to the Throne, of which he was the bearer.

Perceiving that the Bey was desirous to ascertain my personal opinion on the matter, I stated that I did not share the apprehensions of my colleagues. His Highness was one of the great vassal Princes of the Ottoman Empire, and it was but natural that the Porte, in a question of so vital an importance to the Mahommedan world as the one which a series of circumstances had brought about, should feel anxious to know His Highness' sentiments and views through his Envoy, who, it was reasonable to presume, had some knowledge of them.

I reminded the Bey of the opinion I had previously expressed that, notwithstanding the threatening aspect of affairs, Her Majesty's Government, conjointly with the friendly Powers, would eventually find the means of averting a war between Turkey and Russia; and the favourable turn which the negotiations have recently taken create a sanguine hope that peace will be maintained.

His Highness had already authorized a public subscription in aid of the Turkish armies, to which the mass of the population had readily responded, under the impression that the supremacy of the Caliphate was in danger. This impression would be further strengthened should a war ensue, in which case it would be highly impolitic and difficult for him to withhold the assistance he owes to the Sultan without rousing a strong feeling of indignation and discontent among the people, to the inevitable prejudice of his prestige and authority.

The French and Italian Representatives were aware of this, and, as they were equally aware that both in the wars of 1827 and 1854 his ancestors had placed the Tunisian sea and land forces at the disposal of the Porte, the pressure they now employed for the recall of His Highness' Envoy could only have one object in view—that of weakening the existing cordial relations between him and the Ottoman Government—in furtherance of a policy the tendency of which was the eventual severance of the Regency from the rest of the Ottoman dominions. There was no fear that Russia would ever carry her hostilities as far as Tunis, and I, therefore, trusted that His Highness would act as heretofore with reference to Turkey.

Among other remarks the Bey said that he understood the motives which made the

French and Italian Representatives so anxious for the speedy return of his Envoy, but that as a Mussulman Prince he took the deepest interest in the affairs and independence of the Porte, and that he would adhere to the line of conduct he has hitherto pursued, irrespective of the considerations with which they endeavoured to impress him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 40.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 1 P.M.)

Vienna, April 3, 1877, 12·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING telegram from Monson, dated yesterday :—

"To Her Majesty's Government.

"(Most Confidential.)

"Prince Nicholas has already telegraphed to his Delegates at Constantinople that, on Thursday 5th instant, they are to reiterate his demands of the 16th March; and, if the Porte does not accept them before the end of the armistice, they are at once to leave Constantinople, when His Highness will telegraph direct to the Grand Vizier that he will take his stand upon the *uti possidetis*, leaving the Turks to commence hostilities.

"The Prince's Secretary has been charged to tell me in strict confidence that if the Porte holds to Nichsich as point of honour, an offer to cede Spuz and the territory on the right bank of the Moratcha, originally demanded instead of Nichsich, might solve the difficulty.

"I am requested to ask Her Majesty's Government to consent to sound the Porte confidentially on this point, without giving it to be understood that the idea emanates from Montenegro, and without communicating the proposition to Austria or Russia, as the Prince considers himself to have been badly treated by both these Powers.

"In the interests of peace, and wishing to leave no effort untried to secure it, I have thought it my duty not to refuse to submit this proposition to Her Majesty's Government, without expressing any opinion as to light in which they may regard it.

"Prince Nicholas is greatly excited, and I fear that all his advisers are very warlike. I have strongly impressed on his Secretary the absolute necessity of his urging moderation upon His Highness; and I, on my part, will do my utmost to prevent any rash step."

No. 41.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 2 P.M.)

Vienna, April 3, 1877, 1·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING from Monson dated to-day :—

"The Russian Acting Agent tells me that he has received three telegrams in all from Prince Gortchakow, instructing him to advocate moderation. These telegrams are in general terms, and contain no specific orders about details."

No. 42.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 2·35 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 3, 1877, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)
MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Mr. Layard's appointment will be agreeable to the Sultan.

No. 43.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 3, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 24th ultimo, Governor-General of Trebizond reports that Mussulmans and Christians suffered equally from the excesses of the redifs who passed through the district of Gumushhane. A Mixed Commission is to be sent to make inquiries on the spot. Both the Delegate of the Metropolitan and the the Chief of the Erzeroum police are on this Commission.

No. 44.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 3, 1877, 3 P.M.

M. YONINE, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, has passed through Vienna on his way to Cettigné.

No. 45.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, April* 3, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

AS I quite understood the alterations to be applied to Protocol No. 4, and, moreover, had seen the copies received by my Italian and Russian colleagues, which I find to be identic with my own, I communicated it, and the Declarations, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, asking the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram.

His Excellency said that he could give no opinion whatever with regard to it until it had been considered by the Council of Ministers.

He, however, in strict confidence, gave me his own views on the subject.

The Protocol virtually annuls the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, in formally recording the supervision of the reforms by foreign Agents.

It calls upon Turkey to disarm without mentioning a corresponding obligation on the part of Russia, and he did not conceal his astonishment at this point having received your Lordship's approval.

The Declaration was objectionable :—first, because of the conditions attached to Russian demobilization; and, secondly, on account of its last paragraph, as offering a premium to insurrection in Turkey.

It will encourage the endeavours of revolutionary agents if the repression of rebellion caused by their means is publicly known to be prohibited.

Peace with Montenegro upon the demands of Prince Nicholas, and in the present temper of the country, was, he said, impossible; and as the whole question appeared to hinge upon this condition, he did not see how it was to be avoided.

His Excellency was evidently much cast down and disappointed at what he considers an advantage obtained by Russia over Her Majesty's Government.

No. 46.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Ricketts.

Foreign Office, April 3, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your despatch No. 24 of February 12th, it will not be necessary to send interpreter to Alexandropol at present.

No. 47.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 4. Political. Confidential.)

Damascus, March 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte, respecting Zia Pasha, the new Governor-General of Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Confidential.)

Damascus, March 18, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, announcing the arrival of Zia Pasha, I have the honour to report that his fame as a prominent member of "La Jeune Turquie," and as a man professing most liberal opinions, caused his appointment to be regarded by the fanatical Moslem population of Damascus with extreme distaste.

On the other hand, for similar reasons, the Christian and Jewish communities welcomed him with somewhat extravagant feelings of joy. These last arose chiefly from some vague hope, born of much distress, of his will and power to pay off partially the local Treasury Bonds raised for the payment of the expenses of the Hadj in past years, in which the fortunes of almost all are sunk, and the present practical worthlessness of which has contributed largely to the want and stagnation now prevailing in Damascus. These hopes have not been realized.

As is usual in Damascus on the appointment of a Governor-General whose characteristics are opposed to the peculiar views of its large fanatical population, intrigue became at once busy on his arrival to create difficulties, heart-burnings, and to embroil him, in the hope of his speedy recall.

Unfortunately, his ignorance of the details of administration, the apparent absence of other than theoretical knowledge of his duties, combined with a certain arrogance of speech and irritability of temper, have rendered the task a somewhat easy one to the local ruling clique.

As open resistance is known by bitter experience to be out of the question, the primary efforts of intrigue are invariably directed in such cases to producing discord, if possible, with the Consular Corps in matters touching the immunities secured to Europeans and protected persons by the Capitulations, a task which has proved the easier in the present instance as Circular Instructions, dated three years ago, from the Porte, aiming at the practical destruction of such ancient concessions, but which had been allowed so far to remain a dead letter, existed.

And I regret to say that an ignorance, openly and somewhat arrogantly expressed, of the Capitulations, and a general want of urbanity with the public in treating of matters of business, have not tended to counteract such intrigues.

Although his Excellency credits himself with the power of checking present misgovernment, and changing the face of things in twelve months, his peculiar characteristics and his error in not first attempting to attract to himself a party out of the heterogeneous elements of a country abounding in intrigue and duplicity, raise doubts as to his ultimate success as a calm and dispassionate administrator.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 48.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 25.)

Scutari, March 24, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that as soon as M. Radonich arrived here I was able to assist him in dispelling from Dervish Pasha's mind certain misconceptions about the obligations assumed by Montenegro regarding the revictualling of Nichsich.

M. Radonich having proceeded the day before yesterday to Podgoritza and Spuz, in company with Brigadier-General Ali Pasha, in order to assist in facilitating the passage of the Turkish convoys of provisions through the Montenegrin territory, and which Mr. Monson had reported to me as open to the Turks, I was in hopes that no further difficulties would arise.

But, yesterday Dervish Pasha sent to inform me that the Montenegrin authorities on the frontier, although they had been notified three days before that 300 horses were collected at Spuz ready to pass to Nichsich, had failed to fulfil their promise of sending a proper escort to conduct them over Montenegrin territory.

His Excellency begged me to announce this delay by telegraph to Mr. Monson, and to explain that he, on his part, was executing faithfully all the engagements undertaken by his Government.

Dervish Pasha said that he had perceived the Montenegrins were evidently bent upon getting us much as possible of their Indian corn passed through the Lake without allowing the revictualling of Nichsich to be carried out, and that, therefore, he would seek reasonable excuses for suspending the rapid transit of the grain, so that his Government should not find itself at a disadvantage through his misplaced activity.

I endeavoured to combat the Pasha's ideas as to the bad faith of the Montenegrins, and expressed myself ready to proceed to Rieka and Cettigné to see Mr. Monson, and obtain, through his means, explanations which I was convinced would prove satisfactory.

His Excellency promptly accepted my offer, as, he assured me, it was his most earnest wish to conciliate the Prince of Montenegro by affording his people even greater facilities than had been authorized by the Porte; for he was fully aware that, at the present moment, very delicate negotiations were in progress, which could be materially forwarded if the Turkish military authorities showed they shared the benevolent intentions of their Government.

A telegram, however, received by me this morning from Mr. Monson, in reply to the one addressed to him yesterday, proved so satisfactory, and convinced Dervish Pasha that the delays that had hitherto occurred were unavoidable, that I decided to defer my visit to Montenegro, there being now no need to communicate to Mr. Monson *viva voce* (we are unprovided with a cypher) the retaliatory measures that were meditated when the belief existed that Montenegro was evading its engagements.

I have informed Mr. Monson of Dervish Pasha's willingness to allow the Montenegrins who may be employed in the operation of revictualling Nichsich to receive their remuneration from the Turkish authorities in corn instead of in money, a favour which ought to be highly appreciated if the scarcity of grain in Montenegro is as great as it is reported.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 49.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 247.)

Paris, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of last night, directing me to inform the French Government that Mr. Layard is to take charge of Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople as Special Ambassador.

I inclose a copy of a note which I have in consequence addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Lord Lyons to the Duc Decazes.

Paris, April 2, 1877.

M. le Ministre,

SIR H. ELLIOT, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, is obliged to remain in England on leave of absence; while, on the other hand, Her Majesty's Government consider that the interests of Great Britain require that the rank of the British Representative at Constantinople shall be higher than that of a Chargé d'Affaires.

Her Majesty's Government have in consequence directed the Right Honourable

A. H. Layard, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Spain, to go to Constantinople, to take charge of Her Majesty's Embassy there as Special Ambassador.

I have the honour, in obedience to the instruction of Her Majesty's Government, to make this known to your Excellency, and I avail, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 50.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, April 4, 1877, 7 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received the following telegram from Monson:—

"I had an interview this morning with Prince Nicholas, in which I have employed the strongest possible language in support of the advice of my Austrian colleague (who saw His Highness half-an-hour before), appealing by every argument I could think of to induce His Highness to give way about Nichsich, and laying stress upon the fact that now that the Protocol is signed, His Highness could no longer count upon the events of war between Russia and Turkey.

"The Prince desires me to inform your Lordship that he will wait until Thursday in order to learn explicitly from Russia the truth about Nichsich, respecting which he feels that he has been tricked; but that on that day he will order his Delegates to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th ultimo, and if the Porte continues to reject them the Delegates will leave Constantinople.

"In answer to all my representations the Prince said, very courteously, that nothing which I could allege would alter his determination."

I have repeated the above telegram to Lord A. Loftus, with the following instructions:—

"Tell Prince Gortchakow that as it appears from the reports received from Montenegro that the Prince's decision now depends upon Russia, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Russian Government will not fail to use their influence with His Highness in favour of conciliation, and thus advance the policy of peace which has been the object of the recent negotiations for the Protocol."

No. 51.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

Vienna, April 4, 1877, 8·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ON my informing Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Italian Minister will return to Constantinople, as reported by Sir A. Paget, he said that he had no objection to other Powers sending back their Representatives, and that he had never seen any reason for their leaving, but as they did so, he thinks he will act more logically in deferring the return of the Austrian Ambassador until the Protocol has been accepted by the Porte.

No. 52.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

Berlin, April 4, 1877, 11·44 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

THE crisis continues; the Emperor will not accept Prince Bismarck's resignation, and Prince Bismarck has not yet withdrawn it.

As far as I can learn there is no intention of sending back the German Ambassador to Constantinople while the crisis lasts.

No. 53.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

Constantinople, April 4, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING has been sent to Monson to-day:—

"Austrian Agent at Cettigné has proposed to Prince of Montenegro to abandon the demand for the fortress of Nichsich, and confine himself to that for the districts to south-east and south-west of the town.

"I am informed that the Prince is not indisposed to accede to this."

No. 54.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, April 4, 1877.

(No. 119.)

My Lord,

I RECEIVED a telegraphic despatch from Mr. Monson reporting an interview which he had on the 2nd instant with Prince Nicholas, during which the negotiations between Turkey and Montenegro formed the subject of conversation.

Mr. Monson supported in the strongest possible manner the advice which had, a short time previously, been given to the Prince by the Austrian Agent, urging him to give way about Nichsich in view of the fact that the Protocol, having been signed, Montenegro could no longer look forward to the event of a rupture between Russia and Turkey.

The Prince, in reply, requested Mr. Monson to inform me that he was willing to wait until Thursday, the 4th instant, in order that he might learn from Russia the exact truth respecting Nichsich, as to which he was under the impression that he had been tricked; but that on that day he should instruct the Montenegrin Delegates to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th March; and if the Turkish Government persisted in their refusal of these conditions, the Delegates would leave Constantinople.

In reply to the further representations made by Mr. Monson, the Prince, while expressing himself very courteously, stated that nothing which could be said on the subject would alter his determination.

As it appeared from the above report that Prince Nicholas' decision now depended upon the advice of Russia, I lost no time in instructing you by telegraph to express to Prince Gortchakow the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Imperial Government will not fail to use their influence towards inducing His Highness to adopt a policy of conciliation, and thus contribute towards the peaceful solution which had been the aim and object of the negotiations recently concluded by the signature of the Protocol.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 55.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, April 4, 1877.

(No. 122.)

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador informed me to-day that Prince Gortchakow was very anxious that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople should be instructed without delay to communicate the Protocol to the Porte simultaneously with the Representatives of the other Powers. The Russian Government, his Excellency said, looked forward with anxiety to the expiration of the armistice, which had only a week more to run, and at the end of which the question of peace or war must be finally decided. They continued to inculcate on the Prince of Montenegro the expediency of a moderate and conciliatory attitude, but instead of understanding its own interests and the opportunity which was offered it of at once concluding peace, the Porte was inclined to take the unfortunate step of protesting against the Protocol.

Count Schouvaloff expressed a hope that we would warn the Porte earnestly against so suicidal a step.

I informed his Excellency that I had already instructed Mr. Jocelyn to telegraph on Monday last to communicate the Protocol to the Turkish Government and to point out

that it contained nothing to which they could reasonably object. I added that I would further instruct him to dissuade the Porte from the step which Prince Gortchakow believes to be in contemplation, and to say that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the Sultan will be very unwise if he do not endeavour to avail himself of the opportunity afforded him to arrange a mutual disarmament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 116.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh the substance of Mr. Monson's telegram of the 2nd instant, in which he stated that, though he had, in concert with his Austrian colleague, used every argument he could think of to induce Prince Nicholas to give way about Nichsich, His Highness had desired him to inform me that he would wait till the 5th instant to learn from Russia the truth about that fortress, respecting which he believed that he had not been fairly treated, but that his decision was unalterable to order his Delegates on that day to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th ultimo, and, if these were again rejected, to leave Constantinople.

I have instructed his Excellency to tell Prince Gortchakow that, as the Prince's decision appears to depend on Russia, Her Majesty's Government trust that her influence will be exerted in favour of conciliation, and that she will thus advance the policy of peace which it was the object of the recent negotiations for the Protocol to promote.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 117.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1877.*

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador has informed me that, in order to proceed in perfect agreement with Great Britain, his Government had instructed their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to ask Mr. Jocelyn for a copy of the Protocol signed on the 31st ultimo, and of any communication he might be charged to make to the Porte with regard to it, so that the Austrian Government might be enabled to make a similar one.

Count Beust said that Count Andrassy wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government agreed in this course of procedure. In reply, I informed Count Beust of the representations which Mr. Jocelyn had been instructed to make, and I added that I would send that gentleman instructions to give the same information to his Austrian colleague, and to communicate to him a copy of the Protocol if applied to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 58.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 118.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1877.*

Sir,

COUNT BEUST has informed me that the Austrian Agent at Cettigné had represented to the Prince of Montenegro that Russia was endeavouring to come to an understanding with the Powers and with Turkey; that she must, in consequence, be anxious that an arrangement should be come to between the Porte and Montenegro; that Montenegro could not hope to be able to maintain an attitude which was disapproved by Russia, and that it was therefore the Prince's duty and interest to put an end to a state of affairs which was no longer justifiable, and which could only result in prejudice to the refugees.

Count Andrassy had proposed to Prince Nicholas to address himself to the Russian

Government, in order that, inasmuch as the acquisition of Nichsich seemed impossible, he might obtain at least the south-eastern and south-western corners of that district, as far as Graczanicza and Monetinicza, comprising that part of Piva which is situated to the east of the road from Orsipaczno to Brezna, together with the district of Kuci and the territory offered by the Sultan. It was Count Andrassy's opinion that Montenegro could never consent to cede Vassogevic.

I told Count Beust that our Agents both at Constantinople and Cettigné had been instructed to support any representations made by their Austrian and Russian colleagues in the interest of a settlement between Turkey and the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 59.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 4, 1877, 7·40 P.M.*

THE Porte has ordered immediate attack of the Mirdites.

My Italian colleague and I obtained from the authorities a delay of forty hours; granted unofficially.

It would be well if, during this delay, the Porte could be persuaded to put off its action, and if the French and Austrian Governments would order their Consuls to join us.

No. 60.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 65. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, March 24, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 11th instant, reporting that Prince Nicholas had summoned the insurgent Chiefs to Cettigné, I have the honour to state that His Highness sent for me this morning, and informed me that all these Chiefs and the rest of the most important of the disaffected Herzegovinians, to the number of more than one hundred, are now here. The Prince said that he feared that the Porte does not reflect that the destitution of the refugees is excessive; that the spring is advancing rapidly; and that unless they are restored to their homes by the end of April it will be useless to sow their crops for this year's harvest, and the Porte will thus be saddled with the support of an idle population until next year. His Highness has perfected his arrangements with the Chiefs, and undertakes that, if the Porte will agree to his co-operation, and accept his moral and material assistance, all the refugees shall be re-instated in their homes in thirty days, instead of the forty at which he had at first calculated the time necessary. His Highness would furnish the means for transport, and aid in rebuilding the houses and setting the homesteads in order.

After some conversation on this subject, Prince Nicholas sent for Colonel Thömmel, and, on the arrival of my Austrian colleague, His Highness asked us to telegraph to our respective Governments his request that they would jointly press this important matter upon the serious consideration of the Porte.

I telegraphed the substance of this despatch to your Lordship yesterday evening, and Colonel Thömmel sent a similar telegram to Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 61.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 66. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, March 24, 1877.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS this morning discussed with me at some length the conduct of the Turks respecting the victualling of Nichsich, and the transport of the Montenegrin grain, to which much of my correspondence of the last few days refer.

His Highness remarked that, in fact, the Turks had done but little to forward his grain, a great portion of which had been for more than a month in the Boiana River; while only a very small amount had as yet reached Riéka at the head of the lake. On the other hand they had had the coolness not only to ask that the supplies at Risano, in the Bocche di Cattaro (which the Porte had declared to be of a bad quality), should be forwarded to Niehsieh, but that 100,000 okes in addition to the original 153,000 okes, should be sent to the beleaguered town *viâ* Albania over Montenegrin soil, thus almost trebling the original quantity agreed upon.

I told the Prince that I had fears about the safety of the Montenegrin grain now in and near Scutari, as the Turks might find some pretext for seizing it. His Highness replied that nothing of the kind would surprise him; but that, as I had been able to convince myself of his good faith throughout the transaction, he trusted that I should find the means of placing the matter equally clearly before the Turkish authorities in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 62.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 67. Political.)
Cettigné, March 25, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS sent this afternoon to request my Austrian colleague, the Russian Secretary, and myself, to come to the Palace. Upon our presenting ourselves, His Highness said that he had received a telegram from his Delegates at Constantinople announcing that the Porte refused to make the concessions demanded in his telegram of the 16th instant, and persisted in its demand for the cession of the Vassoïevitchi district. There was no mention in M. Petrovich's telegram of the stipulation about the refugees, but there was a request on the part of that gentleman for instructions as to the presentation of a decisive note.

Prince Nicholas said that he should reflect upon the reply he should return to the Porte. Meantime, he had telegraphed for information as to the views of the Ottoman Government about the return of the refugees.

The Prince's manner was very calm, and I think that he himself will make some further concessions, even, perhaps, to the extent of relinquishing his claim to the Douga Pass. It is, however, in my opinion, highly impolitic on the part of the Porte to decline the cession of territory which is not only of no value, but a positive weakness to here especially as the Prince, in giving up his pretentions to the extension of the frontier to the Moratcha, has already renounced by far the most important and advantageous of the territorial acquisitions which he desired, and which had been proposed on his behalf by the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 63.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 68. Political.)
Cettigné, March 26, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 64 of the 24th instant, respecting the transport of stores for Niehsieh, and of grain for Montenegro, I have the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams, from which your Lordship will see that Mr. Consul Green has not thought it necessary to come to Cettigné; and that I have informed the Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa of my conviction of the good faith with which the Prince of Montenegro is executing the stipulations of his agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, March 24, 1877, 9·25 A.M.

RECEIPT of your satisfactory telegram has suspended my departure. Pray convey my grateful thanks to the Prince for His Highness' polite and kind message.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Danish Effendi to Mr. Monson.

(Télégraphique.)
Ragusa, le 25 Mars, 1877, 7·50 A.M.

MERCI pour votre précédent télégramme. Je vous prie, comptant sur votre bonté, d'intervenir pour que la récente Convention concernant le ravitaillement de Niehsieh par l'Albanie reçoive sa stricte et immédiate exécution. Suleyman Pacha m'informe que le 23 le convoi Ottoman n'a pu passer ou qu'aucun fonctionnaire ou agent Princier ne se trouvait sur la frontière, et qu'en outre les 200 chevaux Monténégrins promis ont fait complètement défaut. Les autorités Ottomanes ont rempli et exécutent leurs engagements pour le transport du maïs Monténégrin avec loyauté et au prix de grands sacrifices dont on devrait nous tenir compte. Il ne faudrait pas que les négociations qui se poursuivent à Constantinople influent sur le ravitaillement de Niehsieh, qui ne saurait en aucun cas échouer puisque vous avez la parole de Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas.

Pardon des embarras que je vous donne, connaissant votre esprit d'équité j'ai recours à vous, persuadé que vous aplanirez toutes les difficultés.

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Mr. Monson to Danish Effendi.

(Télégraphique.)
Cettigné, le 25 Mars, 1877, midi.

AVANT-HIER soir on m'a permis d'inspecter tous les télégrammes qui ont été expédiés par les ordres du Prince à Danilograd, et j'ai immédiatement télégraphié à Scutari que je me trouvais à même de constater que les instructions les plus explicites pour l'exécution de la Convention avaient été données et obéies. Le Préfet de Danilograd s'est mis en communication avec Hussein Pacha à Podgoritza, et a offert de lui envoyer un officier pour servir d'intermédiaire. Des ordres les plus précis ont été donnés pour chevaux, escortes, et tous les détails essentiels; en outre des fonds pour payer le louage des chevaux ont été expédiés. On comptait sur le départ du premier convoi hier. Je me suis convaincu que de ce côté on exécute la Convention avec la bonne foi la plus parfaite; et que les ordres du Prince avaient été reçus, compris, et mis en exécution dès le 20.

Ces explications ont été déjà communiquées à Dervish Pacha, et je ne puis qu'attribuer l'idée que le Monténégro manque à sa parole à l'insuffisance des renseignements fournis par les autorités subalternes aux deux Commandants-en-chef.

No. 64.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, April 5, 1877, 7 A.M.

THE Russian Government seem to be apprehensive that the Porte is about to protest against the Protocol. Such a proceeding would, in our opinion, be most unwise.

You should inform the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government obtained the omission or modification of those passages to which they thought the Porte could with any reason object. We consider that the Protocol, with the Russian Declaration which accompanied it, gives an opportunity for the arrangement of mutual disarmament, of which Turkey ought on every account to endeavour to avail herself. A contrary course will look like a reckless refusal of the overtures made by Russia, and will put the Porte in the wrong in the eyes of Europe.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 65.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.[8]

Foreign Office, April 5, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT BEUST informs me that Austrian Chargé d'Affaires is instructed to ask you for copy of Protocol, and of communication which you were instructed to make with it to the Porte, in order that he may make a similar one. You are, of course, authorized to give copy of the Protocol, and to inform him of the representations you have been instructed to make with regard to it.

No. 66.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 10 A.M.)

Vienna, April 5, 1877, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"For the Foreign Office:—

"I hear that Prince Nicholas told Austrian Agent to-day, confidentially, that he will recall his Delegates from Constantinople to-morrow.

"His Highness' irritation at the silence of Russia, and the denials by General Ignatiew of his reported language at Vienna, is excessive."

No. 67.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 11·30 A.M.)

Belgrade, April 5, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YAVOR, Zvornik, and Bouyoukditch were evacuated on the 30th ultimo. Difficulties have arisen respecting two adjoining islands on the Drina, which, before the war, belonged to Servia.

No. 68.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 3 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 5, 1877, 12·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WHEN I had read to Foreign Minister on Tuesday the Protocol and declarations, his Excellency appeared so unwilling to receive them officially that I did not leave him copy, being without instructions to do so; but as my Russian colleague took that step yesterday, I venture to ask your Lordship whether I should follow his example.

No. 69.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 6 P.M.)

Rome, April 5, 1877, 4·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

M. MELEGARI wishes to act with Her Majesty's Government in regard to sending back Minister to Constantinople, and has told Count Corti to be ready to start at any moment, but his Excellency thinks that Representatives should not return if Porte does not accept principles of the Protocol, as this would be a further rebuff to the Powers.

Would your Lordship inform me of the views of Her Majesty's Government on this point?

Italian Chargé d'Affaires has recommended Porte to act in conformity with the Protocol, but did not communicate a copy of it.

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[8] Repeated to Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 70.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, April 5, 1877, 7·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to the telegram from Mr. Monson of the 3rd instant, repeated to you to-day, you may mention to the Porte the plan of ceding Spuz and the territory on the right bank of the Moracha instead of Nichsich as one that has been mooted, but you should wait until you see what proposals are made by Austria and Russia, and how they are received by the Porte, before making any suggestions yourself.

No. 71.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 227.)

Foreign Office, April 5, 1877.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador has mentioned to me that some apprehension is felt at St. Petersburgh that the Turkish Government intends to protest against the Protocol signed in London on the 31st ultimo.

Such a proceeding on the part of the Porte would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be most unwise; and I have to instruct you to state to Safvet Pasha that Her Majesty's Government were careful, before giving their assent to the Protocol, to obtain the omission or modification of those passages to which they thought that the Porte could with any reason object.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the Protocol, taken in conjunction with the declaration made on behalf of Russia by Count Schouvaloff, gives an opportunity for the arrangement of a mutual disarmament by Russia and Turkey, of which the latter ought on every account to endeavour to avail herself.

You will state that a contrary course of action will have the appearance of a reckless refusal by Turkey of the overtures made by Russia, and will have the effect of putting her in the wrong in the eyes of Europe.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No 72.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 229.)

Foreign Office, April 5, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct you to furnish your Austrian colleague with a copy of the Protocol signed at London on the 31st ultimo; and you will also inform him of the terms in which you were instructed to communicate it to the Porte.

The Austrian Ambassador at this Court has informed me that on being supplied with the necessary information the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has been instructed to communicate the Protocol to the Porte, accompanied by a similar representation to that made by you.

I instructed you this day by telegraph in the sense of this despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 73.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 235.)

Foreign Office, April 5, 1877.

Sir,

MR. MONSON has informed me by telegraph that a communication had been made to him by Prince Nicholas' Secretary to the effect that, in the event of the Porte refusing to cede Nichsich to Montenegro, an offer to grant Spuz and the territory on the right bank of the Moratcha might solve the difficulty; and it was suggested that Her Majesty's Government should sound the Porte confidentially on this point, without allowing it to

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appear that the idea emanated from Montenegro, and without communicating the proposition to Austria or Russia.

You may mention this plan to the Porte as one that has been mooted; but before making any suggestions respecting it you should wait until you ascertain what proposals are made by Austria and Russia, and how they are received by the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 74.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 5*, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

ITALIAN Consul at Scutari telegraphs at one o'clock last night that the Ottoman troops intended to attack the Mirdites immediately; that he, with his English colleague, obtained 40 hours suspension; but the other Consuls refused to join.

Italian Government telegraphed to Constantinople to endeavour to dissuade the Porte from attacking Mirdites, and hope Her Majesty's Government will do the same.

No. 75.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, April 5*, 1877, 5 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs expressed much anxiety to me to-day at the reports received from Constantinople and Cettigné. He fears that unless Russia warns the Prince of Montenegro that he will get no support if he persists in his demands, His Highness will make no further concessions, and he thinks that energetic language will also be required at Constantinople to prevent war.

Since seeing him I have received your telegram to Mr. Jocelyn of to-day, and I shall acquaint his Excellency with its substance. Prince Nicholas is reported to be making arrangements with the Mirdites and a collision between them and Dervish Pasha has been, however, only prevented by the intervention of the Consuls, or rather delayed for forty-eight hours till instructions can be received from Constantinople. The newspapers report that the Commander-in-chief at Mostar is collecting forces to relieve Nicksich on the expiration of the armistice, and the various insurgent bands in Bosnia are said to amount together to 3,000 men. The Russian Embassy here profess to be ignorant of M. Jonine having passed through Vienna, but his having done so has been reported by the police.

No. 76.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1877, 5 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs stated to me this morning, in the presence of Grand Vizier, as the expression of his personal opinion, that should Russia consent to withdraw the Declaration, and to leave the question of territorial cession to Montenegro open till later, when he hoped for an amicable arrangement, he would undertake, not only that the required reforms should be seriously carried out, but that the refugees should be re-established to the satisfaction of Prince Nicholas, and that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat of reciprocal disarmament.

No. 77.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul Green's telegram respecting the intended attack on the Mirdites, neither the Grand Vizier nor Minister for Foreign Affairs would give me any information to-day on the subject; Minister of the Interior, however, was less reticent. He looks upon the present movement as caused by the Jesuits, who wish to obtain a Catholic Governor and favour a combination against the Porte. Though unsuccessful their efforts have led to the disaffection of some of the clans, who have now laid siege to a stone building on the road to Scutari occupied by two Mirdite officers in the Turkish service, and it is to relieve these that the present expedition has been organized.

I have sent this to Scutari.

No. 78.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 5*, 1877, 8 P.M.

THE following is from Mr. Monson:—

"Prince Nicholas tells me that he does not intend his Delegates to leave Constantinople for the next few days, as he hopes that the Porte will yet come to accept terms.

"I continue to urge moderation, and His Highness promises me that he will do nothing precipitate."

No. 79.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 27*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that most pressing orders were received yesterday by the Vali from the Minister for War to complete the embodiment of the Mustahfiz, or last ban of reserves.

The information reaching me from Podgoritza, Spuz, Miet, and all the places where troops are collected in considerable force, depicts the state of the officers and men as most deplorable.

Scurvey is increasing in a most alarming manner. The hospital at Podgoritza, composed of 200 beds, is obliged to accommodate 300 patients. The stocks of medicines are exhausted, and the prescriptions of the doctors cannot be made up. Even sugar cannot be supplied to the Podgoritza hospital.

The troops at the front are no longer provided with meat, and are only supplied with reduced rations of rice, butter, and bread.

No one appears disposed to enter into contracts for the supply of fresh provisions, as the authorities have only paper money to offer. The rice and flour have been contracted for with merchants who have stipulated for hard cash payments at Constantinople, on the ground that their purchases have to be effected abroad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 80.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 27*, 1877.

INFORMATION has reached me that the Mirdites have raised up breastworks and other defences of a similar nature across the high road passing through their district, and not very far from Miet.

The considerable force of Turkish troops collected at that place has, no doubt, led the Mirdites to believe that they are about to be attacked; and the return of Salih Pasha

to the vicinity of Matia has probably renewed the fear that he has been dispatched to prepare the inhabitants of that district to co-operate with the Imperial troops.

Competent judges are, however, of opinion that Salih Pasha will not succeed (if such be his object) to raise the Mahommedan Albanians against their Christian brethren. All Albanians, whatever be their creed, are too much attached to their existing privileges to help the Government to deprive any one of their sections of them.

It is stated that the Mirdites are besieging the houses of Capiton Dod Guegah and some of his adherents, as it has been decided to destroy their property, in accordance with the mountain law which prescribes such punishment to all persons who separate themselves from the majority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 81.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Avril, 1877.*

LES journaux de l'Europe parlent d'une insurrection à Diarbékir. Il n'y a rien de fondé dans cette nouvelle, la tranquillité la plus parfaite règne à Diarbékir comme dans toutes les autres parties de l'Empire.

No. 82.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 5, 1877, 8 P.M.*

I WROTE last evening to Prince Gortchakow to use influence with Prince of Montenegro in the sense of your Lordship's telegram.

Prince Gortchakow has urged conciliation generally, but avoids details. He has telegraphed to Prince of Montenegro to avoid rupture of negotiations, and not to recall Delegates before the expiration of the armistice.

General Ignatiew denies having counselled the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna against the cession of Nichsich; this was probably the trickery alluded to in Monson's conversation with Prince of Montenegro.

Intelligence yesterday and to-day from Constantinople unsatisfactory. Symptoms of intention to evade acceptance of the Protocol. If rejected, war inevitable.

No. 83.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 5, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople reports that he has personally visited Obroukli and all the villages mentioned in the "Times'" letter of March 16; that the outrages reported to have occurred in those places have been monstrously exaggerated, and some cases are quite false; that no women have been outraged or insulted, nor have people been stripped to their shirts, but that petty oppressions have happened, and the authorities should be more vigilant.

No. 84.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 5, 1877, 10·30 P.M.*

I HAVE no reason to believe that there is any intention of protesting against the Protocol.

Ministerial Councils are held daily on the subject, and I understand that we are to receive an identic reply, but not in writing. The disposition of the Sultan is in favour of

peace, but the influence of Mahmoud and Redif Pashas upon His Majesty is most baneful. The idea of submitting the question of Montenegro to the judgment of the Chamber was, I believe, inserted in the Sultan's opening speech at the advice of Minister of War, who is working in favour of his own interests to hinder a peaceable solution.

I shall communicate the substance of your Lordship's telegram to Minister for Foreign Affairs to-night, and I shall also make it known to the Sultan to-morrow morning.

No. 85.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 6, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram of 4th instant, which was sent direct to you, advise Porte to refrain from attack on Mirdites at all events for the present.

No. 86.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 6, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, you should carry out the instruction in my telegram of the 2nd to communicate the Protocol to the Porte.

The despatch recording that instruction was presented to Parliament yesterday.

No. 87.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 6, 1877, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, you may tell Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the decision to send an Acting Ambassador has been arrived at, irrespective of the attitude of the Porte, and that it would appear all the more necessary to have a Special Representative if the state of affairs is critical.

No. 88.

Mr Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 6, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

REPETITION of my telegram of yesterday, 5 P.M.:—

"Should Russia consent to withdraw (from) declaration, and to leave question of territorial cession to Montenegro open till later, when he hoped for an amicable arrangement, he would undertake not only that the required reforms should be seriously carried out, but that the refugees should be re-established to satisfaction of Prince Nicholas, and that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat of reciprocal disarmament."

No. 89.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 6, 1877.*

I HAVE just seen Prince Gortchakow. In regard to Montenegro he says that Nichsich is not the only or real difficulty; there is, besides, a question of vassalage and of the territorial claims urged by the Porte.

He considers last proposals of Prince of Montenegro very moderate, and is informed that if rejected by the Porte negotiations will be broken off, the Prince remaining on the defensive and on basis of *uti possidetis*.

In regard to the Protocol Prince Gortchakow said that Russia requires not the

acceptance of the Protocol, but of the conditions contained in the declaration by Count Schouvaloff, and, as proof, the sending of a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to arrange question of disarmament.

Should the Porte reply verbally, or in unsatisfactory and evasive language, war will result, as Russia cannot longer bear the heavy pecuniary sacrifices of prolonged profitless negotiation.

I told his Highness of the urgent advice sent in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Mr. Jocelyn, and I drew his attention to the engagement in the last paragraph of the Protocol.

Prince Gortchakow replied that your Lordship's declaration rendered the Protocol null and void in event of non-fulfilment of reciprocal disarmament and peace. His Highness said that it was a question of days, and that a decision must be taken by the 13th of April. The Emperor would not withdraw; a manifesto was prepared; answer of the Porte would decide for peace or war.

It is important, I think, that the Porte should announce readiness to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh. A Mussulman would be preferred here to a Christian.

Prince Gortchakow spoke with calmness, but with great decision.

No. 90.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 231.)
Foreign Office, April 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received from Mr. Monson telegraphic information that the Turkish Government has ordered an immediate attack on the Mirdites; but that Mr. Monson, in conjunction with his Italian colleague, has obtained from the authorities an unofficial promise that they would grant a delay of forty hours before undertaking active operations.

In view of these circumstances I have to instruct you to advise the Porte to refrain from commencing any attack on the Mirdites, at all events for the present.

To avoid delay I have sent you instructions this day to the above effect by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 91.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 69. Political.)
Cettigné, March 27, 1877.

My Lord,

A VERY acrimonious polemic is being waged between the "Istok" of Belgrade, which I believe is the recognized organ of M. Ristich, and the "Glas Czrnagortza," or Montenegrin Journal.

A recent article in the "Istok," of which the Servian Minister is here considered to have been himself the author, depreciated the value of the Montenegrin victories of last autumn and the efficacy of Prince Nicholas' co-operation in the war against Turkey.

His Highness has consequently caused the insertion in the "Glas Czrnagortza" of the 24th instant of a leading article reproaching the Servians for their precipitation in concluding peace without any thought of, or care for, their ally, and criticising Servian courage and military capacity in a not too friendly spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 92.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 70. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, March 27, 1877.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH M. Youine, the Russian Agent and Consul-General, has been absent for five months from Cettigné, several of his countrymen have remained here during the winter; notably Privy Councillor von Buch, the Director of the Ambulance, and a reduced staff of doctors and nurses.

My occasional conversations with these gentlemen, who are tolerably outspoken in their language, have satisfied me that they are cognizant of, and keenly resent, the change of feeling towards official Russia which has gradually come over the Prince and some of his more intimate councillors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 93.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 71. Political. Very Confidential.)
Cettigné, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

MY Austrian colleague informed me this morning, very confidentially, that he had received during the night a confidential telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that General Ignatiew had informed Aleko Pasha that he considered the retention of Nichsich as a point of honour ("Ehrensache" in the telegram) for Turkey; while, if I understand aright, he had at the same time given Count Andrassy to comprehend that the Douga Pass ought to remain in the hands of the Montenegrins, a territorial "rectification" which, unless there is some grave error, is but an aggravation of former evils.

I further learned from Colonel Thömmel that General Ignatiew told Aleko Pasha that he hoped that the Russian Government would soon send an Ambassador to Constantinople, and thus re-establish a good understanding between the two countries.

Count Andrassy instructed my Austrian colleague to inform Prince Nicholas, confidentially, that, under these circumstances, it would be impossible for Austria to insist upon the cession of Nichsich to Montenegro; and I understand that, not only is the Prince, as was to be expected, furious at having been thrown over by the very man who originally encouraged him to go to war, but he cannot bring himself to believe that his negotiations are to be compromised by General Ignatiew's declaration. He has therefore begged Colonel Thömmel to ask Count Andrassy, by telegraph, whether there is not some serious misapprehension; and if he hears that the communication just made to him is correct, he intends to telegraph direct to Prince Gortchakow, and protest against General Ignatiew's duplicity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 94.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 73. Political.)
Cettigné, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE not seen Prince Nicholas to-day, and it is hardly likely that I shall do so before the departure of the early mail to-morrow.

I have little doubt, however, that, if the Porte makes no concession, if the Turkish Ministers continue to refuse to cede Nichsich and the Kutchi, and persist in demanding the Vassoievitchi, and in giving unsatisfactory answers about the refugees, His Highness will break off negotiations, recall his Delegates from Constantinople, and appeal to Austria, England, and Russia, for their intervention.

It seems to me that this would, under such circumstances, be on all accounts the most advisable course for him to pursue, it being clear that the concessions he has made,

and the prolonged sojourn of the Delegates at Constantinople, are not likely to lead to any satisfactory understanding, and that there is an increasing danger that he may refuse to agree to any transaction whatever with the Porte, revert to the *status quo ante*, and, by means of the insurgents and refugees, and, without making open war, perpetuate in the Herzegovina an agitation which is only too likely to be efficiently backed up by similar movements in Albania and Bosnia.

I believe that I may safely assert that the vast majority of the Montenegrins would recommence the war to-morrow with alacrity, and I am not prepared to say that Prince Nicholas will, in the event of the collapse of the negotiations, content himself with such an apparently passive attitude as I have indicated above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 95.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 74. Political.)
Cettigné, March 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of further telegrams which have passed between me and Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, respecting the provisioning of Nichsich, and the transport of Montenegrin grain.

Mr. Consul Green and I have arranged, as your Lordship will see, that further facilities shall be granted to the Turks for the conveyance of their stores; and that, in return, the Kutchi shall be permitted to cross the Turkish lines, without arms, to fetch the supplies of which they are so urgently in need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, March 26, 1877.

DERVISH PASHA begs me to ask you if you would mind endeavouring to obtain from the Prince the authorization to allow 200 horses, which are known to be at Nichsich, to go to Spuz to help in carriage of provisions, and for twenty loads of such necessaries as calico, threads, buttons, needles, &c., to be sent from Podgoritza to Nichsich. Pasha hopes Prince will stretch a point in this matter in consideration of rapid manner in which transit of Montenegrin grain is being effected by him. If authority obtained for horses to go to Spuz, notice must be sent to that effect to Nichsich from Cettigné.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Mr. Monson to M. Duby.

Cettigné, le 26 *Mars*, 1877, 7 P.M.

Cher Monsieur,

JE viens de recevoir de Scutari le télégramme dont vous trouverez ci-joint la traduction, et je vous prie de vouloir bien le soumettre à la décision de Son Altesse.

Je ne me sens capable de juger de la convenance ou de l'inconvenance des démarches proposées; mais je suis convaincu que le Prince est toujours disposé à traiter de pareilles questions d'une manière à la fois équitable et généreuse.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 95.

M. Duby to Mr. Monson.

Cettigné le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Mars*, 1877.

Monsieur,

EN réponse à votre lettre d'hier, contenant une dépêche de Mr. Green, je suis chargé par Son Altesse de vous dire qu'elle consentira volontiers à ce que les 200 chevaux

présents à Nichsich soient envoyés à Spuz pour aider au transport des provisions, et à ce que les Turcs expédient de Podgoritza à Nichsich les vingt charges de calico, fil, &c., dont vous parlez.

En échange, Son Altesse demande que son Excellence Dervish Pacha permette aux Kutchi de passer sans armes par le Pont du Vizir, pour venir chercher leurs vivres à Rieka, au lieu de faire le grand détour par le Bielopavlich.

Aussitôt que le Prince aura reçu une réponse favorable de son Excellence, il donnera les ordres pour le passage des chevaux de Nichsich et des vingt charges d'objets de mercerie.

Le Prince profite de cette occasion pour vous prier de faire remarquer à Mr. Green que son Excellence Dervish Pacha n'a pas mis à l'envoi des vivres Monténégrins toute l'activité dont il se vante; car sur 30,000 stères (de 40 okes) il n'en est arrivé encore que 1,500 à peine à Riéka.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) R. DUBY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 95.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.)
Cettigné, March 27, 1877, 11 A.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS will readily consent to allow the 200 horses at Nichsich to be sent to Spuz to aid in the transport service, and also agrees to permit the forwarding from Podgoritza to Nichsich of the twenty loads of calico, thread, &c.

In return His Highness requests Dervish Pasha to allow the Kutchi to pass without arms by the Bridge of the Vizier, so that they may fetch their provisions from Rieka without being obliged to make the long detour by Bielopavlich.

As soon as the Prince receives an affirmative reply from his Excellency he will give orders for the passage of the horses from Nichsich, and for that of the twenty loads of haberdashery from Podgoritza.

The Prince at the same time requests me to observe that his Excellency Dervish Pasha has not been quite so active as he flatters himself about the forwarding of the Montenegrin grain, since of 30,000 stères (of 40 okes each) hardly 1,500 have yet arrived at Riéka.

Inclosure 5 in No. 95.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, March 27, 1877, 4·25 P.M.

DERVISH PASHA will permit Kutchi to pass unarmed by the road between the Veljo and Malo Brdo, and cross the Zeta at Kulé No. 1, where boats can be prepared. He prefers this route as it is shorter and more isolated than the other; but before orders are given to open the road it is wished to know how many loads are to be passed, in how many days, and how many each time.

Pasha explains that grain is forwarded to Riéka as soon as it reaches Scutari, but he must not be held responsible for weather and inundations. Await early reply.

Inclosure 6 in No. 95.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.)
Cettigné, March 27, 1877, 9·30 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS requests me to point out that the route proposed, as far as can be understood from the indications given in your telegram, is not only hardly to be considered as a short cut, but necessitates the crossing of the Moratcha as well as the Zeta. The transport would be made chiefly by the people themselves without horses, so that it is quite impossible to estimate the number of loads or the exact time required; but there are in the Kutchi 4,552 souls, and His Highness demands for each 10 okes, that is to say, 45,520 okes of maize.

His Highness must maintain his original demand for the route by the Bridge of the Vizier, and as soon as that is agreed to he will send orders for the passage of the horses from Nichsich to Spuz, and for the forwarding of the haberdashery from Podgoritza to Nichsich.

The Prince would be ready to send an officer to Podgoritza to assist in the preservation of order under the arrangement proposed by His Highness.

Inclosure 7 in No. 95.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 28, 1877, 10·35 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA, having yesterday communicated with Hussein Pasha, finds that there is no objection to the bridge route being adopted, and he will therefore give orders for unarmed convoys to be sent under Azizich Fort, and conducted thence to Kutchi frontier.

Montenegrin officer had better come with first party, and remain till all have passed. Pasha asks that a message by telegraph, as far as possible, may be sent by Prince to Shander Bey of Nichsich, informing him that he may send 220 horses to Spuz—200 for provisions, and 20 for haberdashery; and that an escort will be provided to see them through Montenegrin territory.

Pasha says that if his proposal for an additional 150,000 okes for Nichsich should be accepted, he would consent to convey the 45,000 okes to Zabiak, whence Kutchis could reach their homes in (?) hours.

Inclosure 8 in No. 95.

M. Duby to Mr. Monson.

Cettigné, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Mars*, 1877.

Monsieur,

J'AI soumis à Son Altesse la dépêche de Mr. Green, que vous avez bien voulu me communiquer en traduction.

Le Prince a vu avec satisfaction le contentement donné par Dervish Pacha au passage des Kutchi, sans armes, par le Pont du Vézir, pour aller chercher leurs convois de vivres. Il envoie immédiatement à Podgoritza un officier parlant le Turc, qui est muni de toutes les instructions et des pouvoirs nécessaires pour s'entendre avec Hussein Pacha, ainsi qu'avec le Commandant des Kutchi, afin de régler, de la façon la plus complète, les transports de grains et la marche régulière de convois.

Son Altesse s'est empressé d'agir suivant le désir de Dervish Pacha quant à l'avis à transmettre à Skander Bey à Nichsich. M. Verbizza, le Chef du Département de l'Intérieur, a déjà télégraphié à Ostrog pour qu'il fût envoyé de suite un message à Nichsich. Les ordres sont donnés pour qu'un officier et une escorte attendent le convoi de 220 chevaux auprès de la Koulé la plus rapprochée de la frontière.

Quant à la suggestion par laquelle Mr. Green termine son télégramme, permettez-moi de lui faire observer, par votre intermédiaire, que le Pacha l'a induit en erreur sur la valeur de la concession qu'il offre en échange de celle qu'il demande de nouveau, d'une augmentation de 100,000 okes pour le ravitaillement de Nichsich. La faveur qu'on nous offre n'en est pas une, car nous pouvons et nous comptons faire transporter le grain destiné aux Kutchi jusqu'à Sirijaz, c'est-à-dire, au delà de Jabliak.

J'allais omettre de vous dire que le transport de la quantité totale de grain destiné aux Kutchi exigera probablement deux ou même trois voyages, suivant le nombre de personnes qui se trouveront disponibles à cet effet.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Secrétaire de son Altesse,
(Signé) R. DUBY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 95.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, March 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS has learnt with satisfaction that Dervish Pasha consents to the passage of the unarmed Kutchi by the Bridge of the Vizier. He is sending at once to

No. 95*.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 111.)

My Lord, *Rome, April* 4, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, acquainting his Excellency, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, that Her Majesty's Government had appointed Mr. Layard, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, to proceed to Constantinople to take charge temporarily of Her Majesty's Embassy, as Special Ambassador from Her Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 95*.

Sir A. Paget to M. Melegari.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, April* 2, 1877.

IN compliance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government having determined that the interests of Great Britain require that the English Representative at the Porte should have a higher rank than that of Chargé d'Affaires, and Sir Henry Elliot continuing in England on leave of absence, Her Majesty's Government have appointed Mr. Layard, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, to proceed to Constantinople, to take charge of Her Majesty's Embassy as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Podgoritza an officer who speaks Turkish, and who has full instructions and the necessary authority, to concert with Hussein Pasha and with the Commander of the Kutchi, the arrangements for the transport of the grain and the regular despatch of the convoys. This transport service will probably require two or even three journeys, according to the number of persons disposable as carriers.

His Highness has hastened to act in accordance with the desire of Dervish Pasha with regard to sending word to Skander Bey at Nichsich. A telegram has been already forwarded to Ostrog, ordering the immediate despatch of a message to Nichsich. Orders are given for an officer and an escort to await the train of 220 horses at the Koulé nearest the frontier.

With reference to the suggestion at the end of your last telegram, I am asked to point out to you that you are mistaken as to the value of the concession which the Pasha offers in exchange for an increase of 100,000 okes in the provisions for Nichsich. The favour proposed is none in reality, because it is intended by the Montenegrin authorities that the grain destined for the Kutchi shall be carried to Sirijaz, that is to say, beyond Jabliak.

No. 96.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 254. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, April 6, 1877.*

IN your despatch No. 173 B, of the 20th ultimo, your Lordship did me the honour to inform me that the French Ambassador in London had been authorized to give an absolute contradiction to the report that the Bank of France had agreed to advance a sum of 20,000,000*l.* sterling to the Russian Government.

This contradiction is confirmed by the best information I have been able to obtain here. It is indeed stated to me that it would be impossible to bring out a Russian loan at this moment with any chance of success, and that the attempt would cause such an amount of the existing Russian stock to be thrown on the market as would greatly damage the credit of the Empire.

On the other hand, I am told that if peace between Russia and Turkey were considered to be secured for two years, money for a loan to Russia would be forthcoming in Paris, and that the most considerable financial firms would very probably be willing to take part in such a loan. But it is represented that the demobilization of the Russian army must first take place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 97.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 7.*)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, le 6 Avril,* 1877.

N'AYANT pas eu le plaisir de voir votre Excellence à cause de son absence de Londres, je me vois obligé de lui transmettre ci-jointe la copie d'un télégramme de son Excellence Safvet Pacha, que je désirais communiquer à votre Excellence en personne, et qui exprime la grande satisfaction avec laquelle Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et son Gouvernement ont accueilli la nouvelle de la nomination de Mr. Layard comme Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la Reine à Constantinople.

Je profite de cette occasion pour prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire savoir quand elle pourra me recevoir à son retour de la campagne.

Votre, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Séfvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

Constantinople, le 3 Avril, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

MR. JOCELYN vient de m'annoncer, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, la désignation de Mr. Layard au poste d'Ambassadeur provisoire de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople, et il a exprimé l'espoir que ce choix sera agréable à notre auguste Maître. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a été très-sensible à cette marque d'attention délicate du Gouvernement Anglais; et vous êtes chargé d'informer Lord Derby que le choix de Sa Majesté la Reine ne peut qu'être agréable à notre auguste Souverain, d'autant plus que Sa Majesté Impériale connaissait de réputation les éminentes qualités de Mr. Layard et ses sentiments d'amitié pour notre pays.

No. 98.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7, 12 noon.)

Scutari, April 6, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RECEIVED Chargé d'Affaires' telegram of yesterday. Commander-in-chief states that last night troops at Albanienter were attacked by Mirdites, and that the former returned their fire.

Italian Consul and I offered our good offices, on condition of a suspension of military operations for restoring order among the Mirdites.

We also stated that our colleagues of Austria and France were prepared to join us in securing tranquillity based on the *status quo ante*.

Authorities declined, on pretence of absence of instructions, and are evidently bent on attempting destruction of existing self-government of mountain tribes.

Account given by Minister of Interior shows his Excellency entirely ignorant of the real state of affairs here. Catholic clergy is, if anything, opposed to the movement; Commander-in-chief asserts it has promised him its co-operation.

No. 99.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

Pera, April 6, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PROPOSITION mentioned in Mr. Monson's telegram of Monday as to Prince of Montenegro abandoning Nichsich for the right bank of the Moratcha was made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs two days ago by the Delegates, and his Excellency took note of it without expressing any opinion.

The Delegates have gathered from independent sources that, in case of hostilities breaking out, the Principality will be placed in great peril on account of vast numerical superiority of Turkish army to that of the Prince of Montenegro.

They have communicated this to His Highness, and more moderate instructions may possibly be the result.

No. 100.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

Vienna, April 7, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"I learn from my Austrian colleague that, in course of conversation this afternoon, Prince Nicholas said that he might give up his claim to Nichsich if the Porte offered him Spuz and the right bank of the Moratch.

"I do not think His Highness added that any steps had been taken in this sense.

"I now know, however, from the Prince, confidentially, that the plan was originally suggested to the Delegates at Constantinople, and probably by Réouf Pasha."

No. 101.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7, 1 P.M.)

Scutari, April 7, 1877, 8·40 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Consul and I, having strengthened by more complete support our colleagues of Austria and France, wished to make a further communication to authorities on the subject of our proposed good offices.

Authorities declined to receive any communication whatsoever from Consuls, individual or collective, in connection with Mirdite affairs, and refused peremptorily our visit.

Under these circumstances we are powerless to influence them for good.

I believe Turks are acting in this matter under the wrong impression that they will be able to punish Mirdites before further interference is possible.

No. 102.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic)

(Secret and Confidential.) *Constantinople, April 7*, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

I HAVE received a very confidential communication from the Grand Vizier, in which his Highness says that he cannot understand the reason for Russia insisting so positively upon Delegate being sent to Petersburgh to treat on a subject which in his opinion in no way calls for such a step.

His Highness entertains the gravest suspicions that real object of the mission is to endeavour to bring about an alliance with Turkey, and to conclude another Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi.

The action of Persian Minister at the Palace, where he is now a frequent visitor, may be considered as bearing upon this idea, and his Highness asked me quite lately whether Her Majesty's Government knew of an offensive and defensive alliance having been concluded between Russia and Persia?

I replied that I was without information on the subject.

No. 103.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7, 5 P.M.)

Vienna, April 7, 1877, 2·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of an urgent telegram received last night from the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Nicholas has telegraphed to the Delegates not to leave Constantinople until further orders, and His Highness will, after the expiration of the armistice, remain on the defensive.

No. 104.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received Received April 7, 5 P.M.)

Vienna, April 7, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I UNDERSTAND that the German Embassy continue to consider the maintenance of peace as extremely improbable.

Count Andrassy will leave this evening for Hungary with the intention of being absent ten or twelve days.

No. 105.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th instant respecting Mirdites, Her Majesty's Government have already instructed Mr. Jocelyn to advise Porte in the same sense as Italian Government have instructed their Chargé d'Affaires to do.

No. 106.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April* 7, 1877.

THE French Government has sent orders by telegraph to its Consul at Scutari to join the British and Italian Consuls in endeavouring to prevent an attack upon the Mirdites, but is informed that Turkish Commander-in-chief has already declined to accept communication tendered him by all the Consuls.

French Government has also instructed by telegraph its Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to advise Porte to stop intended attack.

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 123.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I APPROVE the language employed by you at an interview with Prince Gortchakow on the 26th ultimo, on the question of Russian disarmament, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 128 of the same date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 108.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 125.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of the advice which you gave to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, as reported in your despatch No. 95 of the 1st ultimo, to the effect that any demand made by the Porte on Russia to disarm would be ill-viewed by the Imperial Government, and might produce a different result to that which would be desired.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 109.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 10.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE learnt with much satisfaction from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, of the steps taken by you in concert with Mr. Monson for the prevention of disputes between the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities respecting the arrangements for provisioning Nichsich, and providing food for the refugees on Montenegrin territory; and I have to express to you my approval of your exertions towards promoting a satisfactory arrangement between the two parties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 110.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 237.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatch, Political, No. 15 of the 15th ultimo, copy of which was forwarded to you, I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Porte to the present state of affairs at Erzeroum, where the Christians are stated to experience ill-treatment at the hands of the Turkish military authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 111.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Zohrab.

(No. 4. Political.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 12 of this series, dated the 14th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to express to you his Lordship's approval of the note which you addressed on the 2nd inst. ultimo, to the Governor-General of Erzeroum, relative to the outrages committed in three villages in the Gumushané district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 112.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 12.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE the steps taken by you, in conjunction with Mr. Consul Green, to carry out the arrangements proposed by the Porte and agreed to by the Prince of Montenegro, for the transport of stores for Nichsich and Montenegro as reported in your despatch No. 63 of the 23rd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 113.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 13.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I APPROVE your proposal, which you report in your despatch No. 59 of the 19th ultimo, to defer the employment of extreme pressure on the Prince of Montenegro in conjunction with your Austrian colleague until the proper moment appears to have arrived.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 114.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 230.) *Constantinople, March* 30, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 27th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Dupuis, giving an account of the outrage lately committed on some of the Christian inhabitants of Bektijides.

Your Lordship will observe that, with one exception, all the persons guilty of this crime have been arrested.

I have also the honour to inclose the copy of a further despatch from Mr. Dupuis, in

which he refers to some alleged outrages at Obroukli; as he states, however, that he has not visited the village, I have instructed him by telegraph to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Jocelyn.

Adrianople, March 26, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that I have visited the scene of the late outrages at the Greek village of Bektijides, in the Caza of Mustapha Pasha, and I beg leave to submit the following detailed account of that occurrence:—

On Saturday, the 24th February last, at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a party of Turks, consisting of Katrangi Halil, of the village of Tchengherli; Zaptieh Hasan Peklivan, of Kounarli; Berber Admet, of Adrianople; Kilitchli, of Faraloglu, of the same place; a man, name unknown, the son of Irasli Mustapha, of Paleocastro; and another man, also name unknown, of the village of Tchirman, went armed to Bektijides, and stayed in the house of Lambert Stirioghlou, the leading man of the village.

After awhile, Zaptieh Hasan Peklivan went out of the house, and demanded of a villager, named Polemino, two okes of raki, which being given to him, he returned to his companions. They remained drinking till about midnight, and then ordered a supper of fowls, eggs, bread and cheese, to be got ready. While the supper was being prepared, Peklivan demanded 50 piastres of Stirioghlou, which the latter not possessing sent Polemino to the church to bring. After having supped, Katangi Halil (who was in the employ of the villagers to guard their fields, and who, consequently, knew everybody in the place) went to the cottage of another villager named Dimitri Paniotte, also a leading man, and brought him to Lambert's, and demanded of him 50 piastres, but meeting with a refusal, he was first struck by Katrangi with the back of his yataghan, and set upon by the rest. The father, hearing the cries of his son and the shouts and threats of the Turks, paid the money demanded.

The son of Iriash Mustapha then went with Christo, the Kehaya of the village, to the cottage of Panayotti Apostoti, and also brought him to Lambert's. Peklivan making him sit down, asked him if he was owing any money to Katrangi. He replied, "Yes, 4 piastres." "Well, then, pay the money, and 10 piastres more for the supper," shouted the rest of the Turks. The man promised to do so as soon as he had earned some. Katrangi then attacked him, and severely cudgelled him with a stick, but allowed him to go free without payment.

Katrangi then went out and brought Theohari Politinoghlou, who was several times struck by Katrangi and Zaptieh Hassan with the back part of their yataghans. He was also wounded, being cut on the thigh, and made to pay 150 piastres, 200 piastres having at first been demanded.

Going out again, Katrangi brought in George Stevoghlou, who was struck by one of the gang with his yataghan in the same manner, and ordered to give 100 piastres, but not possessing that sum, offered 40 piastres. The money, however, was not paid.

The same individual and a companion went out again and called Angheli Apostooghlou, who was asked to pay 50 piastres for himself and another 50 piastres for his brother Thomali. After beating him with their fists and extorting 30 piastres, they let him go.

Katrangi, with the son of Frian Theodoghlou, again sallied out of the house in quest of victims, and brought in Tani Theodoghlou. This man was kicked and struck with yataghans by all the miscreants, Katrangi inflicting a severe thrust with a knife under the left shoulder, and was carried away bleeding by Zaptieh Hassan, and the man's wife forced to give 50 piastres.

For a whole week these people were too frightened to complain to the authorities, lest the Turks should take revenge.

At the end of that time the local Government of Mustapha Pasha took energetic measures, and dispatched a force of zaptiehs, who secured the whole of the band except Berber, who made his escape, and lodged them in the prisons of Demotica and Mustapha Pasha, to await their trial.

Katangi has since, I am told, confessed his guilt, but being declared insane since incarceration, has been sent to Constantinople.

In conclusion I may observe that some twenty villages, inhabited almost exclusively by Greek Christians, in the Caza of Demotica (the names of which have been given me while on my visit to Bektagides), complain sadly of having been molested, ill-treated, and pillaged by their Turkish neighbours, without being able to obtain redress from the authorities.

I cannot, however, vouch for the accuracy of these complaints, not having visited the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Adrianople, March* 28, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform you that, from inquiries made, nothing positive seems to be known here respecting t occurrence at Obroukli, as reported in the "Times."

It is only by visiting the scene of the alleged outrage that any information can be obtained on the subject, and it is my opinion that when the affair is investigated, it will, like the outrage at Bektigides, reported by me yesterday, turn out to be greatly exaggerated.

Having received your telegram that Mr. Blunt is temporarily to take charge of this office, and no further instructions having been forwarded to me, I have not proceeded to Obroukli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 115.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 240. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1877.

UPON arriving at the Porte on the morning of the 25th, I found the Grand Vizier much annoyed at the contents of a telegram which had been received on the previous evening from Musurus Pasha.

The Ambassador had stated that he had just seen your Lordship, and that in conversation you had told him that, owing to certain conditions required by the Russian Government as the price of their consenting to disarm after the Protocol was signed, conditions to which Her Majesty's Government could not agree, the conclusion of that instrument had been indefinitely postponed.

The telegram which Safvet Pasha read to me then continued, as far as my memory serves me, as follows:—

"Il [meaning your Lordship] a ajouté que, par conséquent, la Turquie devrait se préparer à la guerre, et aviser à compléter ses armements."

I said I felt convinced there must be some mistake, and that Musurus Pasha had misunderstood your Lordship's meaning, as I did not believe that any such advice could have been given in the terms recorded.

On the next day (Sunday), however, a Council of Ministers was held at the Palace, at which the Sultan presided, and it was then decided to act upon the Ambassador's report.

Every province was summoned by telegrams *en clair* to raise with the utmost dispatch the last ban of the reserve, amounting, I believe, to about 120,000 men for the whole Empire, and Hobart Pasha, who was at the time exercising his fine iron-clad fleet of sixteen vessels in the Sea of Marmora, preparatory to a grand naval review which it was intended should be held on Easter Monday, was directed to proceed without delay to the Upper Bosphorus, and there to await further orders.

I only ascertained yesterday evening that this last instruction had been given, and an hour later your Lordship's telegram was received contradicting the statement contained in the Ambassador's telegram.

This morning early I called on the Grand Vizier and on Safvet Pasha and gave them to understand how hastily I considered the Porte to have acted in this matter. I advised them at once to rescind the orders given which might, under present circumstances, precipitate past recall what we were all labouring to avert.

His Highness replied that, although the telegram had certainly strengthened his resolution, the steps he had taken had been already determined upon, and he did not see, in the face of the daily increasing armaments of Russia, how that Power could take umbrage at so necessary a measure in defence of the Empire.

He then said, with much energy of manner, that the position of Turkey was rapidly becoming desperate, compelled as she was upon an empty exchequer to maintain an army of 600,000 men, who were eager to fight, and whose demobilization, if suspected to have been undertaken at the dictation of a foreign Power, might cause the Government serious embarrassment.

He added that the quiet attitude hitherto maintained by the Mussulman population of the capital must not be counted upon much longer. There was a feeling pervading all classes that the present negotiations in Europe were being wilfully retarded by Russia in order to gain time, and while every day added to the impoverishment and difficulties of Turkey, the delay would greatly facilitate offensive operations on the part of her adversary.

Under these circumstances, was is to be wondered at that the popular feeling in favour of war should be daily increased, and might before long become such as to defy even Government control?

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 116.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 241.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 30, 1877.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Green's correspondence with your Lordship, respecting the hostile attitude assumed by the tribes in Miridicia towards the Porte, I have the honour to inclose herewith a *précis* by Mr. Baring of three interesting reports which my Austrian colleague has received from his Consul at Scutari.

The vexatious conduct of Dervisch Pasha in dealing with these people is here clearly shown, and Mr. Green's statements regarding him are fully corroborated.

I have always urged Safvet Pasha, when speaking on this subject, to replace Dervisch by some other general who should show a more conciliatory disposition towards the Catholic tribes, and, moreover, be less likely to act upon his own ideas than upon the orders he receives from his superiors.

When, some weeks ago, Dervisch Pasha was directed to release the Mirdite Chief Marco, nearly a fortnight elapsed before the Porte's instructions had been carried out, the discontent of those whom this measure was intended to pacify being thereby greatly increased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Précis of Despatches from the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Scutari to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires.

March 10, 1877.

ON the 27th ultimo the Consul-General informed the Austrian Embassy that Dervisch Pasha had set the Mirdite Chief, Marco Djon Notza, at liberty, but refrained from giving details till he should receive information from reliable sources. He cannot now even be quite certain of the fact, and, indeed, he mentions the commencement of coercive measures against the Mirdites, which may delay the re-establishment of good relations between that tribe and the local authorities.

Owing to the interference of the English Chargé d'Affaires, the Grand Vizier ordered the unconditional release of Marco Djon Notza, and Dervisch Pasha went so far as to order Marco's chains to be taken off, and to send him, together with Dod Gheza, towards the Mirdite frontier.

Consul Green never doubted that the prisoner was unconditionally released till a few days ago a report was spread that Marco was still watched by Dod Gheza; what added weight to this report was that the Mirdites were still blocking the road to Prisrend, and still retained Zeinil Bey and his companions as hostages at Oroschi.

Mr. Green asked Dervisch Pasha for explanations, and was informed that Marco was perfectly free, but that he would not go to Oroschi, as he did not approve of Prenk Bib Doda's action, and had allied himself to the party of Dod Gheza; as the Mirdites still blocked the road and retained the hostages, the Porte had ordered that Bil Doda should no longer be treated with, and that coercive measures should be taken. Accordingly the markets were shut to the Mirdites, and ten of their number arrested.

Mr. Green telegraphed this to his Embassy, and informed Dervisch Pasha that the orders of the Porte were not being carried out.

The Consul-General adds that communication with Oroschi may be interrupted by the weather, and that Dervisch Pasha's statements cannot be unhesitatingly accepted, and that, therefore, he cannot as yet give a decided opinion upon what is going on.

March 11, 1877.

Yesterday (March 10) Zeinel Bey arrived from Oroschi quite unexpectedly. He informed the local authorities that Bib Doda was under the influence of the Montenegrin partisans Don Primo Docci and Lorenzo Goracci. The Mirdite Chief is fond of talking of the persecutions he has suffered since his childhood at the hands of the Turks, and he is inclined to look for active interference on the part of Montenegro and Russia, in order to get him out of the difficulties in which he has been placed.

Zeinel Bey advised him to have recourse to the English and Austrian Consuls in order to get his differences settled, but the influence of the men above-mentioned prevents him from estranging himself from Russia and Montenegro.

Zeinel Bey says that Bib Doda, as well as the Captains Djon and Hoi, stopped at Oroschi, while a man named Tutzi, with thirty men, went to watch the road to Prisrend. Tutzi allowed the provision train to Tuka to pass unmolested.

Although Marco is still in confinement, Zeinel Bey and his companions were released.

Among the seventeen Mirdite Chiefs only three are opposed to Prenk, viz., Dod Gheza, Notz Mreka, from Debei, and a Chief from the Fundi district. Prenk's influence is not, therefore, strong enough to stop the quarrels between the two parties in the Dibei district. What is now going on at Scutari may be ascribed to Dod Gheza's intrigues.

Zeinel Bey further states that the Mirdites are expecting an attack from the Mussulmans of Mattia and Prisrend, but the only defensive measures they have taken have been to send the small band under Tutzi, mentioned above, to Tchafe Malit, and to place a few patrols.

There is but little excitement among the people, and a very slight amount of prudence would avert a conflict.

The Consul-General is inclined to put faith in Zeinel Bey's information, but adds that the Turks have a tendency to regard as Montenegrin every party which has an interest in regulating its attitude in accordance with that of Montenegro. If the Turkish Government would only have some regard for the conservative tendencies of the mountain tribes, and would not on every opportunity interfere with their system of self-government, it would have no party opposed to it. As it is this party is taking advantage of external complications. It is, however, not pledged in any way to Montenegro, nor has the latter Principality taken any engagements towards it.

All difficulties and intrigues which in Dervisch Pasha's time have been prepared against the autonomy of the Mirdites could be put an end to at once.

The present state of things, which the local authorities, in their blindness, are encouraging, shows why Bil Doda thinks that war with Russia or Montenegro would be the best thing for the Mirdites.

March 12, 1877.

In accordance with Dervisch Pasha's orders the coercive measures against the Mirdites are being carried on, and will, if necessary, be increased, till such time as they acknowledge a Kaimakam named by Government. Dod Gheza, though he has no party, is trying to impose himself upon the Mirdites in this capacity, but the majority of the people cling to Bil Doda. It is more than ever necessary that the Porte should have matters arranged amicably.

When representations of a pacific nature are made to Dervisch Pasha, he replies that peace has now been made with Servia; that Russia will not make war; and that with 120 battalions he could easily crush Montenegro and Albania.

Dervisch Pasha's conduct is more dangerous to the Porte than to the Mirdites, for the latter now know what lot awaits them when peaceful relations are re-established, and also that in order to retain their autonomy they must draw nearer to Montenegro.

The Tehoschi, Schala, Hotti, Castrati, and Clementi tribes are in the same position. All of them expelled the Mudirs sent by Dervisch Pasha, the Schala tribe even driving away the Chiefs who had consented to his appointment. Dervisch Pasha is also threatening these tribes.

The Mussulmans also are assuming a threatening attitude, for as they refuse to allow themselves to be formed into companies and battalions, Dervisch Pasha has called upon them to give up the breech-loaders which were distributed to them. This they refuse to do, and the Pasha threatens to disarm them by force.

On account of the depreciation of the paper currency, and the difficulty there is in distinguishing the good from the forged, business is carried on under great difficulties, and in Podgoritza all the shops were closed, the soldiers breaking into some and plundering them; even at Scutari the shop-keepers have to resort to stratagems to escape taking the soldiers' "kaimé." The employés of the post and telegraph offices have given notice of their intention to resign, on account of their receiving their pay in "kaimé."

The financial collapse of Turkey is discrediting the Government in the eyes of the Mussulmans of Albania, who only obey for form's sake.

The Consul-General points to the inconveniences which arise from Dervisch Pasha having practically taken all power out of the hands of the Pali.

He adds, that it is difficult for him to say whether Dervisch Pasha really intends to collect fresh battalions till such time as he can crush all who refuse him obedience, but he thinks his means of attack are not very dangerous for the Mirdites. It is true that the latter only have provisions up to the month of May, and that they only possess old fire-arms, but their positions are well-nigh impregnable. Dervisch Pasha, on the other hand, only has Redifs unaccustomed to mountain warfare and Albanian Nizams, who see no reason for fighting against the Mirdites.

Never was North Albania is so critical a position or so badly governed.

No. 117.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 31, 1877.

THE friendly feeling which had sprung up here towards Turkey some three or four months ago appears to be somewhat suddenly subsiding.

This change has been principally caused by the injustice with which it is considered that the Greeks in Turkey have been treated in the recent elections to the Ottoman Parliament, in which they are not represented in any adequate proportion to their numbers and importance.

I am told that in other respects also the Porte has shown an indisposition to conciliate or to do justice to its Hellenic subjects, whose friendship and loyalty must be of such vital consequence to Turkey in the crisis through which she is now passing.

Nothing seems to have been lately done either by the Porte with a view to facilitate the settlement of the outstanding questions between Greece and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 118.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 259.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 7, 1877.

ON receiving last evening your Lordship's telegram respecting the intention of the Turks to attack the Mirdites, I immediately communicated the substance of it to the French Foreign Office, and suggested that instructions should be sent to the French Consul at Scutari, in Albania, to join his British and Italian colleagues in endeavouring to induce the Turkish military authorities to refrain from carrying this intention into execution. I mentioned also that your Lordship had directed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to advise the Porte to put a stop to the attack.

This afternoon I received a message to the effect that instructions such as I suggested

had already been sent to the French Consul, but that he appeared to have joined his colleagues even before they reached him, for a telegram had been received from him stating that all the Consuls had tendered a communication urging the suspension of the attack to the Turkish Commander-in-chief, but that he had peremptorily refused to receive it or to listen to any remonstrances.

Instructions had moreover been sent to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to request the Porte to send orders to arrest the threatened hostilities; and the only hope now appeared to be in the Porte's being induced to send to the military authorities on the spot positive orders to desist.

I have already forwarded to your Lordship by telegram the substance of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 119.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 8, 1877, 10 A.M.

I COMMUNICATED to Grand Vizier, confidentially, this morning substance of Lord A. Loftus' telegram of 6th instant, urging upon him absolute necessity of declaring his readiness to send Special Envoy to Russia in order to avoid war. His Highness stated that Russian Chargé d'Affaires had spoken to him yesterday much in the same sense, but he could see in the pacific solution, which might now be arrived at, nothing more than a truce, which might be broken at any moment by Russia, when Turkey would be at her mercy. A Cabinet Council was to meet at the Palace to-day, when he thought some decision might be arrived at. The Sultan, he said, was peaceably inclined, but would never be willing to compromise the honour of his country.

No. 120.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 8, 1877, 12:30 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Mr. Jocelyn:—

"Military movement against Mirdicia has been resumed since Friday. (Reports of Dervish Pasha?) I fear are misleading Porte. Reported attack on Alepikas appears to have been false alarm of outpost purposely adopted by the authorities. Their assertions that at least ten soldiers have been killed also appear unfounded. Villages on the spurs of the mountains will necessarily fall into the hands of the troops, and we must be prepared to hear of atrocities, whether they are committed or not."

No. 121.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 8, 1877, 2 P.M.

I AM confident that if proposals of the nature reported in telegram from Constantinople of 5th instant, as the personal opinion of Minister for Foreign Affairs, were submitted to Russian Government, they would be considered as a direct refusal by the Porte of the Protocol and Declaration, and would lead to immediate war.

Porte must abandon all illusion as to any further concessions from Russia.

No. 122.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 8, 1877, 3 P.M.

NO information has been received here in confirmation of Safvet Pasha's opinion expressed to Mr. Jocelyn on the 5th instant. Count Andrassy telegraphed on 6th to

Constantinople, representing peace or war to be now in the hands of the Porte, and recommending urgently, as the Porte will be responsible to Europe, the acceptance (at least in principle) of the Protocol. He also recommended the cession of the right bank of the Moratcha as a means of getting over Nichsich difficulty. The Turkish Ambassador having spoken to me yesterday of the Russian declaration as an insult to Turkey, I said I could not agree with him, as it was, in my opinion, merely an assurance required by your Lordship respecting demobilization, accompanied by a reservation to satisfy public opinion in Russia.

No. 123.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 35. Political.)

Belgrade, March 26, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that M. Ristich, the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, called to inform me that Salik Zequi Pasha, the Turkish General on the Drina, was making difficulties respecting the surrender to the Servians of the island of Boyouklitch, and to request me to endeavour to obtain the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in this matter.

He said that since the conclusion of peace no difficulties had attended the evacuation of their respective territories, and that the conduct of the several commanders had throughout been marked by interchanges of courtesy, with the exception, however, of the Turkish General on the Drina, who not only still continues to refuse to surrender the island in question, which ought to have been evacuated simultaneously with Little Zvornik, but also twenty-one Servian prisoners now remaining at Belina.

The Turks assert that Bouyouklitch should in future be considered neutral ground; whereas the Servians maintain that the island having belonged to them before the war, the non-surrender of it was an infraction of the *status quo ante* principle, on which alone they had agreed to conclude peace.

Little Zvornik, therefore, still remains in the hands of the Servians, who will continue to occupy it until Bouyouklitch is evacuated by the Turks.

M. Ristich further complained that in the vicinity of Novi Bazaar raids were continually being made by Turkish soldiers across the frontier, for the purpose of cutting timber on a mountain called Javor, situated in the district of Sienitza; and stated that as the Servian Government was incurring a great expense by having to keep under arms a number of troops all along that frontier, at a time when a general disarmament was going on and the men were being sent to their homes, account would be taken of the loss sustained, and an equivalent sum deducted from the Tribute annually paid to the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 124.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, March 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, No. 20 of the 20th March, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, in answer to a telegram instructing me to be very careful to report and investigate all cases of disorders or outrages which may come to my knowledge, and that I am authorized to visit places, at the public expense, where such occurrences are reported to have taken place.

This province is a very large one; communications are extremely difficult and slow; and there is so much pure invention in the reports of all such matters, that it is only by a kind of divination, resulting from my long experience of the people and their surroundings, that I can form any idea of whether they are worth attention or not. The Turks are naturally interested in denying them *in toto*, and the Christians in insisting on them and exaggerating them, and I have no confidence in either party.

I gathered from the reports of the debates in Parliament that it is the intention of the

Government to extend the Consular service in Turkey, and, if this be true, and if it be considered necessary to have better and more certain information of what passes in Bosnia, I would suggest the establishment of a Vice-Consulate at Banialuka for the north and north-west of the vilayet, where the relations and feelings of Turks and Christians to each other are quite different to what they are in these parts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Consul Holmes to Mr. Jocelyn.

Bosna-Serai, March 20, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your telegram of the 28th instant, desiring me to investigate and report cases or disturbance or outrage that may come to my knowledge, and informing me that I am authorized to charge in the public accounts the expenses of visiting places where such occurrences are reported to have taken place.

The great difficulty, when such reports are spread, is to find out whether they are worth attention, as so many of them are pure invention, and, after a certain time, are recognized as such, and, unless they are very strongly confirmed in the first instance, I should feel very unwilling to undertake the expensive and fatiguing journies necessary to ascertain their truth. However, I will use my best judgment in this matter, and will not spare myself in the public service, if the occasion seems to justify the exertion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 125.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 15. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, March 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state, as I have already telegraphed, that no arms have been lately distributed to the Turkish population. A few of the Mustafiz have been drilled in infantry and artillery exercises, but their arms are always deposited in the barracks when they are not being used. The carrying of arms in town or country is strictly prohibited, but when travelling it is allowed on obtaining a teskereh, costing, I think, two piastres.

I have continued most diligently my inquiries as to whether there has been any increase of murders or other atrocities, both from the authorities and well-informed private individuals, Turks and Christians, and I am always assured that there is no truth whatever in the assertion, and I myself am of this opinion.

I hear that at Banialuka and at other places along the Save frontier, the Christians neglect to commence agricultural operations. The reasons given are various. Some say they have no means. Others that they are afraid of insurgent bands destroying their crops, and feel it useless to sow where they may never reap. Also, that they are constantly assured that war will take place, and their status be completely changed, and that they will be cared for without working. Others again declare that they will not work in order to ruin the Mussulman proprietors. But whatever may be the truth, there is no doubt that the peasants are so idle, ignorant, and credulous, that, in the first place, they are glad of any excuse not to work, and, in the next, it is easy to persuade them to believe anything. They have been also so utterly ruined, impoverished, and deluded, by both friends and foes, that they seem to have lost what energy or sense they ever possessed, and entirely inclined to trust their future to mere chance. Altogether, I do not think this is much to be wondered at.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 126.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE telegraphed to your Lordship that orders have been received here from the Turkish Government to hasten warlike preparations, and to call out the Mustafiz. I see that the authorities here have not the least hope of escaping war with Russia, and in their infatuation they seem to think it almost the best thing that could happen. I had a long and rather warm conversation with the Governor-General on this subject yesterday, and I think I left on him the impression that a most fatal ignorance could alone justify his ideas.

I urged upon him the necessity of making an effort to restore tranquillity to the Craïna, and drive out Despotovich and his bands; and mentioned that my Austrian colleague had told me that his Government would give every aid to effect this, and would send troops to disarm these bands, if the Turks would indicate any point at which they would be forced to pass the frontier. His Excellency exhibited the most profound distrust of Austrian promises, and said that Despotovich and his brigands could not possibly have maintained their position at Grahovo at all, during this winter, if they had not drawn their supplies from Austria, as they could not have obtained a grain of corn in the long-since desolated country in which they have maintained themselves. He assured me, however, that preparations were in progress for driving them out, but he had no confidence that the Austrians would either disarm them or do anything to prevent their reassembling and reorganizing fresh raids.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 127.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 76. Political. Confidential.)

Cairo, March 30, 1877.

My Lord,

CHERIF PASHA, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, called here yesterday to tell me that the Khedive had just received a confidential message from the Sultan to the effect that Musurus Pasha had telegraphed from London that matters looked so threatening that the Porte ought to prepare to meet the worst eventuality; that the friendly Powers counselled this course, and that His Imperial Majesty therefore desired to know, in the event of war breaking out, to what extent he could count upon the assistance of Egypt, and in what shape it could be given.

The Minister went on to say that the Khedive was much embarrassed as to the answer that he should give to this appeal, and desired my advice upon the subject. He (Cherif Pasha) thought that the only proper answer to return was, that within the limits of possibility, and with a due regard to her financial engagements, Egypt would furnish all the assistance she could afford to Turkey.

I said I hoped, from the tenor of Sir Stafford Northcote's statement in the House of Commons, of which each word had been probably well weighed, that matters were not so bad as they were represented from Constantinople, but that in any case the question was too delicate a one for me to advise upon.

In giving this answer I hope I carried out the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 15th ultimo.

I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday the purport of my conversation with Cherif Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 128.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 252.)

Constantinople, April 3, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE the opening of the Turkish Parliament, the Second Chamber has been principally occupied with questions relating to internal organization, involving the recognition of the rules of debate and order which have been framed for it by Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, the President.

The discussions upon these points have been conducted with considerable ability and animation; and several of the Arabian and Syrian Delegates have been conspicuous for the energy they have displayed in opposing any measure of the Government which appeared to them an infringement of Parliamentary privilege.

On one occasion, the opinion of the Chamber having been taken with regard to the right of more than one member taking part in an interpellation of the Ministers, the proposition of the Government was rejected by a majority of three to one.

The debate which took place on the 27th ultimo on the policy of territorial cession to Montenegro is sufficiently interesting to warrant my inclosing a copy of the proceedings to your Lordship, as reported in the Turkish newspaper, the "Hakikat;" and, although the discussion was adjourned, the opinions of those who took part in it were expressed in very decided terms, the President himself joining in, and supporting the views of the majority against any foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Empire.

It is scarcely to be supposed that the Ministers will go so far as to plead a popular decision such as this, in favour of continued opposition to the wishes of Prince Nicholas, but it is, I believe, no less true that the Sultan has expressed his warm approval of the debate, which has, I understand, gone far to modify His Majesty's disposition in favour of pacification.

It has evidently come to the knowledge of the Porte that some clause exists in the Protocol, or in the Declaration, menacing cessation of the disarmament of Russia in presence of any disturbance involving outrage upon Christians, and they cannot conceal from themselves the fact that such acts of violence are not unlikely to occur during the demobilization of their own army.

They are well aware that thousands of men, to whom from six to thirty-three months' arrears of pay will remain due, many of them called under arms at a cruel sacrifice to their domestic happiness and their agricultural prospects, will be sent home starving and uncared for; and will, moreover, be certain to come into contact with portions of the Christian populations on the way to their homes.

It is not difficult to foresee what may be the deplorable consequences of such a state of things, and how easily the contingency may arise provided against in the last paragraph of the Russian Declaration.

A dread of such an eventuality evidently prevails among the Ministers, and, in the absence of any real statesman to grapple with the danger, may lead the nation to prefer undertaking a war with a faint chance of success to accepting a position which would leave them entirely at the mercy of their enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Extract from the "Hakikat."

Debate in the Turkish Parliament.

AU paragraphe qui a rapport aux services rendus par l'armée et la nation lors des guerres de Serbie et du Montenegro, le Président ayant demandé à l'Assemblée si elle avait quelque observation à émettre, le député Saïd Effendi se leva pour prendre la parole Le Président lui ayant demandé si son intention était de discuter séance tenante, Saïd Effendi répondit que telle n'était pas son idée, mais qu'il voulait se faire inscrire pour le lendemain.

Relativement à cette phrase d'un paragraphe, "que l'on doit se féliciter de la conclusion de la paix avec la Serbie," le Président fait les observations suivantes:—

"Il n'est nullement utile, à mon point de vue, de mettre cette phrase; il faut dire,

'que nous sommes convaincus que les Serbes reconnaîtront la magnanimité et la générosité de Sa Majesté,' attendu que dans cette guerre nous n'avions en vue aucun autre but que celui de la défense légitime.

"Après avoir accueilli favorablement toutes les réclamations des Serbes, nous les avons vus néanmoins se révolter contre leur Suzerain et massacrer cent cinquante créatures innocentes; objets d'une agression injustifiable, nous l'avons repoussée. Quoiqu'il en soit, grâce à Dieu, tout est passé.

"C'est dans ces termes, à mon avis, que ce passage doit être revisé."

L'Assemblée approuve.

Le Président.—"Je ne vois pas la nécessité de répondre que nous présenterons en son temps nos conclusions sur la question du Monténégro qui doit nous être référée. Dès maintenant, réfléchissons à ce que nous devons faire, c'est-à-dire étudions attentivement la question, et expliquons clairement quelle est notre opinion à son endroit."

Quelques membres.—"Nous n'avons pas bien saisi le sens de ces paroles."

Le Président ordonne que le passage de l'adresse soit lu une seconde fois, et reprend ses précédentes indications en disant qu'il ne faut pas écrire que la Chambre réserve ses conclusions lorsque la question lui sera soumise; mais, au contraire, elle doit dès maintenant formuler une opinion, soit sur les concessions demandées, soit sur toute autre ligne de conduite.

Un membre.—"Cette opinion devra-t-elle se formuler dans les bureaux?"

Le Président.—"Où vous voudrez. En vertu de la Constitution, les dispositions que compte prend le Gouvernement à l'endroit du Monténégro seront soumises à votre appréciation, mais vous pouvez dès aujourd'hui faire pressentir la couleur de votre décision future."

Se sont fait inscrire pour la discussion sur ce passage de l'adresse:—Rassim Bey, Andrinople; Ahmed Effendi Jenicheirli Zadé, Aidin; Joussef Effendi, Scutari d'Albanie; Ibrahim Bey, Herzégovine; Salom Effendi, Castambol; Mustapha Bey, Janina: Saïd Effendi, Alep; Sami Bey, Ahmet Effendi, Hussein Tchélébi Effendi, Députés de Scutari d'Albanie; Hadji Mustapha Effendi, Cozan; Ibrahim Effendi, Salonique.

Deux membres font remarquer qu'il serait difficile d'émettre une opinion sur la question Monténégrine tant que les détails de la marche des négociations n'auraient pas été communiquées à la Chambre.

Le Président leur fait observer, en réponse, "que lorsqu'il y aura lieu de discuter, les opposants seront également admis à présenter leurs motions. Il est à désirer," ajoute le Président, "qu'il se manifeste toujours une certaine divergence dans les avis; il en résulte ainsi une discussion qui élucide les questions et en facilite la solution."

Au paragraphe relatif à la Conférence on a substitué le mot "Conférence," à celui qui avait été d'abord choisi: "Medjlissi-Mukialemé" (Congrès). La plus scrupuleuse attention a été donnée à cette partie de l'adresse.

Après la lecture de chaque paragraphe, le Président consulte la Chambre en demandant s'il a soulevé quelque objection.

Dans un endroit, les mots "Tarik Istikamet" (voie de la loyauté) ont remplacé ceux de "Tarik-Mustekim" (chemin de droit), et "Arz-Istidjal" (prière d'activer) a remplacé "Arz" (prière).

A la phrase suivante:—

"Nous repoussons l'intervention dans les affaires intérieures de l'Etat et entre le Souverain et ses sujets," le Président pense qu'il y aurait lieu d'accentuer sur ce point en mettant: "nous repoussons d'une manière absolue."

La Chambre entière répond, "Oui! nous ne pensons pas autrement; nous repoussons d'une manière absolue."

Un membre, *Ahmet Effendi*.—De corps et d'âme nous refusons toute ingérence étrangère.

Le Président.—Il serait difficile d'en être autrement. Que veut dire l'Etat? Ce n'est qu'avec l'indépendance que l'Etat peut être un Etat; en cas contraire, l'Etat n'est qu'une fiction. Toute intervention de la part de l'étranger est contraire au droit international. Le refus de se prêter à une intervention n'implique pas une opiniâtreté ou un entêtement déraisonnable; c'est le droit et la règle. Néanmoins on doit délibérer sur la matière dans les bureaux.

Un Membre.—Il faut aussi spécifier que nous nous en rapportons et nous nous confions à la justice divine.

Hassan Fehmi Effendi.—Je demande à être inscrit au rôle, ayant à émettre certaines observations sur l'ensemble du projet de l'adresse.

Rassim Bey et *Youssouf Effendi* sont portés également au rôle pour parler sur les fonctionnaires de l'Etat.

Le Président félicite la Commission chargée de la rédaction du projet de l'adresse pour la façon avec laquelle a rempli sa mission. "Il propose à la Chambre de prendre pour règle de se réunir à 4 heures et de commencer les débats à 6 heures." Les jours s'allongent, dit-il, il est difficile de travailler pendant le moment le plus chaud de la journée. Il convient de venir de bonne heure, de façon à pouvoir travailler trois heures avant midi.

Jeudi nous commencerons à 5 heures.

Tous les membres sont d'accord.

Un Député rappelle que la fête du Mevloud est pour le lendemain.

Au sujet de cette réflexion, *le Président* dit, "Nous ne pourrons délibérer que plus tard sur cette question lorsque nous recevrons un avis du Ministère. Si je suis seul invité à la cérémonie, je ne me rendrai pas à l'invitation; mais si celle-ci est à l'adresse de toute la Chambre elle sera soumise à la délibération."

A 7 heures la séance est levée. Comme la moitié des Députés étaient déjà sortis, le bruit circule que son Excellence le Président a été élevé au rang de Vézir. Les membres encore dans la salle s'empressent de lui adresser leurs félicitations.

Son Excellence *Ahmet Vefik Pacha* remercie l'assistance en ces termes: "Depuis vingt ans cette dignité m'a été offerte quatre ou cinq fois et je me suis toujours empressé de décliner cet honneur. Cette fois-ci je l'accepte avec joie, car c'est un signe évident de la sollicitude de Sa Majesté pour la Chambre, qu'elle honore en honorant son Président."

No. 129.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 254.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 3, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 228 of the 25th ultimo, respecting the late outrages at Podzarsko, I have the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 29, 1877.

A TELEGRAM was received this evening by the Pasha of Salonica from the Musteshar of the vilayet, Costantinidi Effendi, who is investigating the outrages at Potzarsko, stating that the value of the effects plundered from that village by Bekir Pehlivan and his confederates has been estimated by the Commission of Inquiry at about 24,000 piastres (200*l*.), and recommending that this sum should be at once paid to the villagers of Potzarsko by the Government chest at Vodina, the latter to recover the amount through the authorities from the authors of the outrages.

I regret to say that the telegram in question does not enter into further particulars in connection with this case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 130.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 292.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 1, 1877.

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 31st instant, informing me that you had agreed with the Russian Ambassador upon the terms of the Protocol, I immediately addressed a few lines to Count Andrassy communicating to him this satisfactory intelligence.

Later in the evening I received your Lordship's further telegrams, reporting the text of the declaration to be made by Count Schouvaloff and by your Lordship before the signature of the Protocol; and having met Baron Orczy at an evening party, I communi-

cated these documents to him, and at his request I called to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in order that Count Andrassy might compare them with Count Beust's reports, which he said were not entirely identic with them.

As, however, Count Andrassy had been sent for by the Emperor, I did not see his Excellency, but I learnt from Baron Orczy that a telegram had been received from Count Beust removing the discrepancy between his previous reports and your Lordship's communications to me.

Baron Orczy told me, at the same time, that Count Andrassy had expressed much satisfaction at the signature of the Protocol, and that his Excellency considers, although he made no declaration on the subject, that it will cease to be binding on Austria-Hungary, should it become null and void, in conformity with your Lordship's declaration, between Great Britain and Russia.

His Excellency intends visiting his estates in Hungary for a week or ten days, and will probably leave Vienna on Tuesday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 131.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 294. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING met Count Andrassy to-day, I learnt from him that he has put off his departure for his estates for his estates for a few days. He told me also that, as it had been proposed that the Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople should be instructed by telegraph to communicate the Protocol to the Porte, he had desired Count Beust to request that Mr. Jocelyn might be authorized to give the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires a correct copy of it, in order that he might take part in communicating it to the Porte.

I said that, if his Excellency wished it, I could give him a correct copy of the Protocol, but he said he had himself received one by telegraph from Count Beust. His reasons, therefore, for wishing a copy to be communicated by Mr. Jocelyn to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires did not appear to me quite clear.

He said every possible effort should now be made to bring about an arrangement between the Porte and Montenegro, and he expressed some anxiety at the question of peace being so entirely dependent on the issue of the negotiations between them.

I told him that Mr. Monson had been instructed to support any representations which may be made by Austria and Russia in favour of their satisfactory termination, but he said that General Ignatiew had denied at St. Petersburgh having used the language respecting Nichsich which the Turkish Ambassador here had reported him to have held to him, and that Prince Gortchakow, whom his Excellency had requested to use his influence with Prince Nicholas in favour of peace, has answered that Russia cannot well employ greater pressure on His Highness than she has already done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 132.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 305.)
Vienna, April 3, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 294 of yesterday's date, Baron Orczy has explained to me to-day that Count Andrassy's object in wishing Mr. Jocelyn's telegraphic copy of the Protocol to be communicated to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires was to prevent the possibility of different texts of the instrument being communicated to the Porte through errors in cyphered telegrams.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 133.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 307.)
Vienna, April 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 105, of the 31st ultimo, communicating to me a copy of the Protocol signed on that day by your Lordship, and by the Ambassadors of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, together with a copy of the *procès-verbal* of the declarations made by your Lordship and the Russian and Italian Ambassadors before the signature of the Protocol.

I avail myself also of this opportunity to congratulate your Lordship warmly on an understanding having been come to with the Great Powers, by which, while the policy of Her Majesty's Government, wth regard to the independence of the Ottoman Empire has been maintained, it may be hoped that war between Russia and Turkey will be prevented, and the tranquillity of the East be re-established on a permanent and satisfactory basis.

I have, &c
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 134.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 310. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Count Andrassy this morning, and informed him that your Lordship had authorized Mr. Jocelyn to communicate to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires a copy of the Protocol, and to acquaint him with the representation that he was instructed to make in communicating it to the Porte.

His Excellency said that this communication had already been made, and that if the objections expressed by Safvet Pasha to the Protocol were persisted in, he saw little hope of peace, and he feared it would be necessary to use very energetic language at Constantinople to prevent war. He then read to me a telegram from Cettingé, reporting the intention of the Prince of Montenegro to recall his Delegates, and appeal for the intervention of England, Austria, and Russia; and he is of opinion, therefore, that unless the Russian Government can be induced to warn his Highness that he will get no support if he persists obstinately in his demands, no further concessions are to be expected from him.

With a view to a renewal of the war, His Highness is reported to be making arrangements with the Mirdites, and encouraging them in their quarrel with the Porte; and a collision between them and Dervish Pasha has been again only prevented by the intervention of the Consuls, who have induced the Pasha to abstain from action for forty-eight hours, until instructions can be received from Constantinople.

The newspapers also report that the Commander-in-chief at Mostar is collecting a considerable force to relieve Nichsich on the expiration of the armistice, and the various insurgent bands in Bosnia, who are, doubtless, in communication with Prince Nicholas, are said to amount together to 3,000 men.

The Russian Embassy here profess to know nothing of M. Jounie having gone to Cettingé, but his having passed through Vienna has been reported by the police.

Since my conversation with Count Andrassy respecting the unfavourable reception of the Protocol at Constantinople, I have received your Lordship's telegram to Mr. Jocelyn of this date, and I shall acquaint his Excellency with its substance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 135.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 125.)
Berlin, April 5, 1877.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 119 of the 1st instant, I informed the German Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government, having determined that the interests of Great Britain required that the English Representative at the Porte should have a higher rank than Chargé d'Affaires, and

Sir Henry Elliot continuing in England on leave of absence, had appointed Mr. Layard, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, to proceed to Constantinople, to take charge as Special Ambassador.

In thanking your Lordship for this communication, his Excellency said that the German Government had, for their part, determined to wait before sending the German Ambassador back to his post at Constantinople until the Porte had returned a favourable reply to the communication of the Protocol, and had sent a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to settle the question of disarmament.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 136.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 127. Confidential.)
Berlin, April 6, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Government have asked the German Government, confidentially, whether the appointment of Zadoulah Bey as Ambassador would be acceptable to the Emperor.

The answer will probably be delayed until the Porte has accepted the Protocol and appointed an Envoy to St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 137.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 9.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.)
Constantinople, le 5 Avril, 1877.

IL nous revient d'une source certaine au Caucase qu'un Traité secret offensif et défensif aurait été conclu entre la Russie et la Perse. Par ce Traité le Schah de Perse cèderait à la Russie les deux provinces de Ghilan et de Mazenderan situées au nord de la Perse sur les côtes sud de la Mer Caspienne, et, en compensation, l'Empereur Alexandre s'engagerait à aider la Perse à s'emparer de Bagdad. Il résulte des mêmes informations que la Russie aurait envoyé au Schah 200,000 chassepots.

Je crois devoir vous communiquer ces renseignements à titre confidentielle.

No. 138.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 9.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 6 Avril, 1877.

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Russie m'a donné lecture et laissé copie du Protocole signé dernièrement à Londres. Les Chargés d'Affaires des autres Grandes Puissances sont venus également me voir séparément pour m'annoncer la signature de ce Protocole et pour conseiller à la Sublime Porte de prendre en considération ce document comme une nouvelle preuve des sentiments de conciliation de leurs Gouvernements.

Après avoir écouté leurs vives recommandations et leurs conseils amicaux, je leur ai dit que je ne pouvais pas leur exprimer une opinion ni sur la forme ni sur le fond de ce document, ne l'ayant pas encore bien étudié, et que je ne tarderai pas à leur faire connaître le point de vue sous lequel ce Protocole sera envisagé par le Gouvernement Impérial.

No. 139.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9, 2·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)
Constantinople, April 9, 1877, 10·35 A.M.

THE policy of the German Government at present crisis appears to be one of total abstention from action.

During the last few days my colleagues and I have been making every effort to induce Porte to take measures to insure peace, whilst German Chargé d'Affaires appears to have no orders on the subject, and there are not wanting signs that his Government is rather inclined to encourage it in this resistance.

No. 140.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, April 9, 1877, 4 P.M.

INFORMATION having been received here yesterday respecting modified manner in which Porte thinks of accepting the Protocol, instructions were again sent to Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to urge impolicy of Porte incurring the responsibility of making objections to its provisions.

Count Andrassy has not yet left, but will probably do so to-morrow.

No. 141.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, April 9, 1877, 4·45 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador in conversation to-day expressed conviction of absolute necessity if war was to be averted of an Ambassador being sent from Constantinople to treat directly at St. Petersburgh. With regard to the other question now under consideration, namely, the terms of peace between Turkey and Montenegro, he thought that delay, however injurious, would not be fatal; but he expressed most serious apprehension of consequences that might follow if the Porte showed itself unwilling to enter at once on a negotiation with his Government having mutual disarmament for its object.

I promised to make known to you the substance of his communication without delay.

Inform Porte accordingly.

No. 142.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received April* 9, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1877, 3 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has received this morning very unsatisfactory intelligence from Constantinople.

Porte apparently refuses the Protocol, and whilst accepting the Declaration with reserves will only send Envoy to St. Petersburgh provided that Russian Envoy be also sent to Constantinople.

Porte has decided to attack Mirdites and to blockade Montenegro. Under present circumstances it is, I believe, decided to publish Imperial manifesto on the 13th instant. Notwithstanding the critical state of affairs, Prince Gortchakow told French Ambassador this morning that a Turkish Special Envoy would still be received if instructed to treat seriously.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 143.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, April 9, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE "Antelope" has been ordered to meet Mr. Layard at Marseilles, and he expects to embark there with Mrs. Layard on Monday the 16th. Make arrangements for his reception.

No. 144.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 119. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, April 9, 1877.

Sir,

COUNT BEUST informed me to-day confidentially that the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had been instructed to make representations in the following sense to the Turkish Government:—

He was to state that the Austro-Hungarian Government, having learnt the nature of the objections made by the Porte to the Protocol, wished him to declare that, in their opinion, it contained nothing incompatible with the dignity and independence of Turkey; that they considered that the refusal to cede Nichsich, Colacin, and Kutchi, made peace with Montenegro an impossibility; that they held it to be the interest of Turkey to do her utmost to re-establish peace, and I saw no loss of dignity in a direct negotiation with Russia respecting disarmament without the intervention of the other Powers; that, in short, looking upon the Protocol as an instrument calculated to facilitate a settlement which would be most acceptable to the Porte, they could only consider its rejection as a danger to the peace of Europe, the responsibility for which would rest upon it alone. He was, consequently, to urge the Porte to accept the Protocol, and to point out that this advice was entirely disinterested, as, on the outbreak of war, Austria-Hungary would be prepared at all points to protect her own interests from injury.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 145.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[a]

(No. 128.)

Foreign Office, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day and stated his conviction that if war was to be averted it would be absolutely necessary that an Ambassador should be sent from Constantinople to treat directly with the Russian Government at St. Petersburgh.

He did not look upon delay as equally fatal, however injurious it might be in regard to the other question under consideration, namely, the terms of peace between Turkey and Montenegro, but he expressed the most serious apprehension of the consequences that would be likely to ensue if the Porte refused to enter at once upon a negotiation with Russia for mutual disarmament.

I promised Count Schouvaloff that I would telegraph the substance of his communication to Mr. Jocelyn, which I have accordingly done this day, instructing him at the same time to make it known to the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Jocelyn.

No. 146.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 240.)

Foreign Office, April 9, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 226 of the 25th ultimo, I have to instruct you to convey to Mr. Vice-Consul Peechioli my approval of his proceedings in connection with the outrage committed upon a Christian family at Bouloustra, as reported in his despatch of the 19th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Consul Blunt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 147.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 241.)

Foreign Office, April 9, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day and spoke to me on the subject of the Protocol which had recently been signed by myself and the Representatives of the five Powers in London. His Excellency said that the Porte felt that the contents of the Protocol were derogatory to the Sultan's dignity and independence, and that rather than accede to its provisions it would be better for Turkey to face the alternative of war, even if an unsuccessful war, resulting in the loss of one or two provinces.

I observed, in reply, that in thus speaking of an unsuccessful war which might result in the loss of one or two provinces his Excellency seemed to miscalculate the probable course of events if war broke out. A war with Russia would in all likelihood be the signal for insurrectionary movements in various parts of Turkey, and so far from the question being one merely of the loss of a province or two, it seemed to me to be a matter for apprehension whether at the close of the conflict the Ottoman Empire would still be in existence. As Musurus Pasha spoke of the Turks retiring into Asia, if so compelled, and maintaining there their independence of rule, I asked him whether he meant seriously to contend that it would be better, in the interests of the Porte, that the Turks should be driven out of Europe than that the Sultan's Government should tacitly acquiesce in a document to which they were not required or requested to give any formal and express assent, which had been drawn up and signed without their being consulted, for which, therefore, they were in no way responsible, and which, after all, called upon the Porte, as I understood its tenor, to do no more than it had either already expressed itself ready to do, or than it might be presumed to be willing to do, with a view to the well-being and security of Turkey.

Musurus Pasha replied that the Protocol was a virtual abrogation of the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris; that to allow it to pass in silence would, in the opinion of the Porte, be to surrender all that Turkey had fought for in regard to the Sultan's rights of freedom from foreign intervention, and that this was a humiliation to which his Government would not at any risk submit.

I said that I very much regretted to hear him express this view, which I could not conceal from him was, in my opinion, a very unwise one.

His Excellency then spoke to me of the question of sending a Turkish Ambassador to St. Petersburgh, as to which he told me that he had had some conversation with Count Schouvaloff, adding that he had telegraphed to Constantinople strongly urging the expediency of taking this step.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 148.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9, at night.)

Vienna, April 9, 1877, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen the Foreign Minister since dispatching my previous telegram of to-day, and I doubt his leaving Vienna before the crisis is over. He still hopes for peace, but reports from Petersburgh are warlike and represent Emperor's sentiments to have become less pacific, whilst there is reason to fear that the Porte will not act in conformity with the exigencies of its position.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 149.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9, at night.)

Scutari, April 9, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received letter from Bib Doda, dated Thursday, stating that the people in the besieged house, (who) had been allowed to withdraw in safety to the Ghega, will be respected.

Doda hopes Consuls will continue to endeavour to prevent a conflict. He was not yet aware of the refusal of the authorities to permit action of Consuls.

Four battalions attacked Mirdites yesterday morning at a place half-an-hour from Narach; five Mirdites wounded.

Troops and Christians have remained to-day facing each other, but without fighting.

No. 150.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Erzeroom, March 19, 1877.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose copy of a telegram I have just sent to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, in cypher.

The Russian Consul called on me late last night and told me that he had received orders from General Lauris Melikoff to inform the authorities here that a band of Turks having made a raid into Georgia and succeeded in carrying off a number of animals, reprisals would be commenced in forty-eight hours if immediate restitution was not made.

M. Obermüller remarked to me that while Samih Pasha was here he was able to trust to the energy and activity of the authorities to do justice; but with Ismael Pasha as Governor-General, he could not tell what result would follow his application.

As this is the first time M. Obermüller has received an order in such peremptory terms, he supposes General Melikoff must be acting under instructions from the capital.

I shall see the Valy to-day and endeavour to discover what has been done.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Jocelyn.

Erzeroom, March 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH band crossed Russian frontier, succeeded robbing number of animals. Russian Commander-in-chief informed Turkish authorities here through Russian Consul, yesterday, stolen property if not restored in forty-eight hours will make reprisals.

No. 151.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 75. Political.)

Cettigné, March 30, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS told me this morning that he had received information from Russia of the signature of the Protocol yesterday by your Lordship and the Ambassadors of the Great Powers. His Highness added that he hoped that this signified the security of European peace.

I asked the Prince whether this information would make any change in his views; and was glad to learn from him, as an indication of pacific sentiments on his part, that it had decided him not to recall his delegates from Constantinople, as he had been on the point of doing. His Highness intimated that, under the circumstances, he trusted that it might be possible that the concerted action of the Great Powers would lead to a fresh departure in the negotiations between himself and the Porte.

I do not think that the diplomatic efforts of the delegates will effect much; and, therefore, beyond the advantage that a rupture of the negotiations is for the moment averted—an event which would produce a disagreeable impression rather than any immediate danger of an absolute renewal of the war,—I do not know that much is gained by their continued presence at Constantinople. Without the active intervention of the Great Powers, or at any rate of England, Austria, and Russia, it seems to me that it will be next to impossible to arrange the terms of peace; and I fancy that this is now the decided opinion of Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 152.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 76. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, March 31, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 29th instant, reporting the contents of a telegram received by my Austrian colleague from Count Andrassy, I have the honour to state that it appears from a further telegram, received by Colonel Thömmel last night, that General Ignatiew had declared in favour of the retention of the Koutchi, and not of the Douga, by Montenegro. The misunderstanding was caused by an error in the cypher.

The Austro-Hungarian Government will not continue to support Prince Nicholas' demand for Nichsich, in the face of Russia's open abandonment of His Highness' cause; but Colonel Thömmel, whose extraordinary minute knowledge of the country in all its geographical and ethnological details, causes the Prince to repose great confidence in his opinions in everything relating to the adjustment of the frontier, intends, I believe, to propose to His Highness a further concession, namely, to give up the pretension to the Douga Pass and the town of Nichsich, and confine his demand to that small portion of the Nichsich Plain which is separated from the rest by the River Moschtanitza. In ceding this, the Turks would give His Highness a little cultivable land, and access to water, which is very deficient in that part of the Herzegovina.

I have no idea whether Prince Nicholas will be brought to consent with tolerable readiness to this scheme, my Austrian colleague not having yet seen His Highness this morning.

Those who have watched at close quarters the sinuosities of Russian action in Montenegro during the last year, and who know how much Russian officials, and especially General Ignatiew and his trusted Agent here, are responsible for the events which have encouraged Prince Nicholas to make the demands for territorial concession recently presented to the Porte by the Montenegrin delegates, will hardly fail to recognize the irony of that fate which is now imposing upon the original devisers of a scheme of large aggrandizement the necessity of being the most urgent of remonstrants in compelling His Highness to renounce his cherished projects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 153.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 77. Political.)

Cettigné, March 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which I received at an early hour yesterday morning from Mr. Consul Green, reporting that Dervish Pasha had stated to him that the party of Turks who had accompanied the first convoy of provisions across Montenegro to Nichsich had complained that they had been annoyed by Montenegrins.

I went as soon as possible to the Palace, and spoke to Prince Nicholas on the subject. His Highness said that there was no doubt that the Turks had been annoyed by some Herzegovinians; and that, as he was determined to prevent any such occurrences, he had

had the chief offenders arrested, and they would be brought to Cettigné, and severely punished.

I lost no time in communicating this information to Scutari, in a telegram to Mr. Green, of which I have the honour herewith to transmit a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 29, 1877, 10·20 P.M.

DERVISH PASHA has begged me to let you know that the party that accompanied the first convoy to Nichsich has returned to Spuz, and complains of having met with many petty annoyances and difficulties from the Montenegrins. In stating the above I wish it to be understood that I merely act as a channel of communication. Pasha also says that but 160 of the 200 horses provided by the Prince have as yet been supplied, and wants to know if it is true that these horses are to make but one journey. May ten cases of medicine be sent to Nichsich, which is without medical stores?

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 30, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS requests me to say that Dervish Pasha has been quite correctly informed as to annoyances complained of in your telegram of last night, except as to the nationality, the offenders being Herzegovenians. The ringleaders have been arrested, and will be brought here and severely punished. The Prince appreciates the manner in which you have made this communication.

As to the horses, orders shall be given that the remaining forty promised shall be sent if they have not been so already; but it is true that they are only to make one journey, according to the Prince's spontaneous offer.

Seven loads of medical stores have just been sent to Nichsich from Risano by Danish Effendi, so that the ten cases you mention will not be required.

His Highness hopes that advantage will be taken of this fine weather to accelerate the transport of the Montenegrin grain to Rićka.

No. 154.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 10, 1877, 1·15 P.M.

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople telegraphs under date of yesterday, that he has done all he can to induce the Porte to send an Envoy to St. Petersburgh, and that this question is still under consideration, but he was told by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs that a resolution not to accept the Protocol or terms proposed by Montenegro was irrevocable.

M. de Gavagra calls attention to the attitude of reserve of German Chargé d'Affaires in recent negotiations.

No. 155.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10, 5·7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1877, 10·40 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER sent for me early this morning and communicated the decision of last evening's Council.

The points of the Protocol considered derogatory to Turkey are rejected.

Russian declaration is altogether refused.

Mutual disarmament will be proposed.

This decision has been communicated by a circular telegram to their Representatives abroad.

No. 156.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10, 5·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING sent to Athens:—

"I hear on good authority that a rising in Crete is being prepared by a Committee at Athens, and that it is to break out in the event of a reverse occurring to the Ottoman troops.

"Grivas is, I understand, the principal organizer."

No. 157.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 10, 1877.

THE adjourned debate on the question of Montenegro was resumed to-day, and although Ministers hoped for vote of confidence, leaving them free to treat with the Principality as they thought best, the motion was rejected by 65 against 18 voices, thus protesting against any territorial cession whatever.

No. 158.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 120.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1877.

COUNT BEUST informed me to-day that instructions to the following effect had been sent by telegraph to the Austrian Representative at Constantinople:—

It was pointed out to him that Austria-Hungary had no idea of imposing her advice on the Porte, but that it appeared to her to be certain that the Porte would gain nothing by provoking war. The reply which was apparently preparing at Constantinople to the communication of the Protocol would consist in an acceptance of it as it stands, coupled with remarks as to its humiliating character. It was difficult to comprehend how the Porte supposed that its dignity would be preserved by such a step, and why it would not be better to accept with good grace. If the Turkish Government was prepared to listen to disinterested advice, the Imperial Government would suggest an answer in something like these terms:—

"The Porte sees only in the Protocol friendly advice inspired by the wishes of the Powers for the maintenance of peace. The Sultan remains faithful to all his promises, and will introduce the reforms as he has manifested the intention of doing. He will send a Plenipotentiary to treat for reciprocal disarmament." As regards Montenegro, Austria-Hungary had succeeded, by efficacious pressure, in preventing the recall of the delegates from Constantinople; and it was for the Porte to show itself equally conciliatory; all appearance of foreign pressure must vanish if the Porte should, by a spontaneous and generous impulse, decide to conclude promply the Montenegrin negotiation.

The Austro-Hungarian Representative was directed to communicate these observations to Safvet Pasha without losing an instant, as the moment was decisive, and to impress upon him that the advice was that of a friend, and that it was hoped it would be taken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 159.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 127.)
Foreign Office, April 10, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador informed me to-day that he had just received a telegram from St. Petersburgh stating that the Sultan had caused me to be informed by telegraph that it would be impossible to accept the Protocol, as it was humiliating and dangerous to Turkey.

The Russian Government heard further that Montenegro would not be attacked but blockaded, and that all the Turkish Generals who had been appointed to commands on the Danube were leaving for their destination.

Count Schouvaloff said that this showed how much those were in error who attributed pacific intentions to the Porte.

I told his Excellency that I had received no intelligence to confirm these alarming accounts, and that although Musurus Pasha had spoken strongly to me yesterday of the objections entertained by his Government to the Protocol, he had delivered to me no message to the effect mentioned by him, nor indeed any message at all, from the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 160.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 11.)
Foreign Office, April 10, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 25 of the 24th ultimo, with a view to promote an arrangement between the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities relative to the revictualling of Nichsich.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 161.

The Earl of Derby Consul Blunt.

(No. 6.)
Foreign Office, April 10, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 19, Political, of the 20th of March, with reference to the alleged enrolment of Bashi-Bazouks to operate against the brigands at Veria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 162.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

(No. 20.)
Foreign Office, April 10, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 49 of the 24th ultimo, with regard to the apprehended rising in Epirus, and the revival of brigandage on the frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 163.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(No. 45. Political.)
Foreign Office, April 10, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraphic despatch of the 29th ultimo, reporting that your advice had been asked as to the assistance which should be rendered

to Turkey by Egypt in the event of war; and I approve of your having replied to this inquiry in the terms of my confidential despatch No. 16 of the 15th of February.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 164.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 31, 1877.

THE equinoctial gales, the rapid melting of the mountain snows and consequent freshets in the rivers, and the paucity of native craft on the Bojana and the lake, have impeded greatly the transit of the grain to Montenegro; and, on the other hand, the difficulty of collecting a sufficient number of pack animals for the transport of provisions to Nichsich from Spuz, have daily raised doubts in the minds of the Montenegrins and the Turks as to each other's good faith.

The fact also that the revictualling of Nichsich and the carriage of the Montenegrin grain from the Bocche di Cattaro to Rieka has to be effected almost entirely at the expense of the Turkish Government, has helped much to make the authorities here feel that they have been outwitted by the Montenegrins, and they are constantly trying to lessen the disadvantages of what they term a one-sided arrangement.

The existence of this feeling here, and the knowledge possessed at Cettigné that the Turks must submit to almost anything if they desire to relieve the wants of the starving inhabitants of Nichsich, has made direct intercourse between the two parties almost an impossibility, and for this reason I trust that your Lordship will not disapprove of my having trespassed, perhaps rather freely, upon the time of Mr. Monson, for securing, through his well-assured influence with Prince Nicholas, explanations and concessions such as I also have obtained from the authorities here, so that by this means no serious misunderstanding has yet arisen.

Mr. Monson, in this manner, has induced the Prince to allow 220 horses belonging to the inhabitants of Nichsich to assist in the transport from Spuz, and to permit twenty loads of haberdashery and seven of medicines to be included in the supplies to be introduced into the besieged town.

Dervish Pasha has consented, on his side, that 45,000 okes of maize may pass over the Vizier's Bridge at Podgoritza from Montenegro into the Koutchi district, a facility which saves the carriers an extra two days' journey; and his Excellency has offered to lend Montenegro 40,000 or 50,000 okes of maize, if the unavoidable delay in the arrival of the grain up the Bojana is causing any inconvenience.

A complaint of the Pasha's that the Turks that accompanied the first convoy to Nichsich had been subjected to petty annoyances by the Montenegrins has been immediately attended to by Prince Nicholas, who has taken steps for the punishment of the culprits, who, it appears, were refugees from the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 165.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that, having been informed that the authorities had availed themselves a few days since of the Mevloud, or Feast of the Birth of Mohammed, to release the two Zeibeks who had been imprisoned for having been implicated in the murder of the Slav priest at Podgoritza, reported in my despatch No. 60 of the 27th August last, I immediately sought explanations from both Dervish Pasha and the Vali.

The former stated that the men having been handed over by him to the civil authorities, he had nothing further to do with the case, and Mustafa Pasha told me that he had liberated them, much against his will, as the Criminal Court had acquitted them four months ago, no one having been found willing to bear witness against them.

I pointed out that his Excellency had chosen an unfortunate day for the release of

the men, as it was now generally believed that they owed their liberty more to religious reasons than to the sentence of a Court. Their presence, too, in Scutari was only calculated to give rise to an impression that the priest's death had been forgiven or forgotten by the Government.

Mustafa Pasha admitted that the Zeibeks ought not to have been liberated in Albania, and he had them rearrested at once, in order that they may be sent, together with the whole proceedings of their trial, to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 166.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 10, 1877.

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated yesterday, 10 P.M.:—

"From the Prince's language to-day I fear that the late Austrian telegrams urging him to relinquish Nichsich have only served to irritate him. He assures me that his determination to insist on this is in no way caused by any instigation from Russia, from whom he has received no prompting of any kind. He states that the Delegates will at once leave Constantinople on the receipt of a refusal of their demands."

No. 167.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 11, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated to-day :—

' Montenegrin Delegates telegraph that the Turkish Parliament yesterday unanimously refused all cession of territory; and that the Porte's answer to the Protocol is tantamount to its rejection. They are to have an interview with Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day.

"Prince Nicholas is taking precautionary measures against a sudden attack of the (? Turkish Government) on the Herzegovina."

No. 168.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11, 6 P.M.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 11, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated to-day :—

"Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs seems to think that the question of the independence of Montenegro may be raised in reference to territorial cessions. I feel convinced that the Prince will never consent to any arrangement implying the suzerainty of Turkey over the Principality."

No. 169.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11.)

Berlin, April 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assures me that instructions were sent to the German Chargé d'Affaires to associate himself with and support the friendly advice of his colleagues at Constantinople. At the present juncture those instructions have again been repeated by telegraph.

No. 170.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 11, 1877.

I LEARNED from Prince Gortchakow this morning that the Porte has rejected the Protocol, declaration, and terms of peace with Montenegro, consequently there was no further motive for the presence of a Turkish Envoy at St. Petersburgh.

My impression is that Russia, before taking any isolated action, will make a further appeal to Europe, although I am not officially told so.

No. 171.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 11, 1877.

EXPEDITION from Miet made a further advance yesterday, and after a short engagement took some more of the Mirdite positions. Troops only one; Christians several killed and wounded.

Native reports, not yet confirmed, state that Turkish force from Plana near Alessio has met with serious reverse.

No. 172.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April* 11, 1877.

MY clerk, returned from Ipek to-day, reports that story of massacre there, as described in "Daily News" of 2nd ultimo, is a pure fabrication. Acting Consul Barker will forward his report.

No. 173.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April* 11, 1877.

I AM told that telegram has been received by Grand Duke from St. Petersburgh ordering army to be in readiness to march by the 13th instant. Officers on leave ordered to their posts, 38th and 20th divisions not yet arrived. Effective operations difficult during their absence. Two other divisions are, it is said, ordered from Russia to form reserve. Three battalions leave for frontier.

No. 174.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 131.) *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1877.

My Lord,

IN consequence of the motion of which Lord Hartington has given notice in the House of Commons for the production of the original draft of Protocol communicated to me on the 11th ultimo by the Russian Ambassador, I asked Count Schouvaloff this afternoon whether his Government would have any objection to the publication of this document.

His Excellency stated, in reply, that the publication would, in the opinion of his Government be inconvenient, and that they thought it better that the original draft should not be presented to Parliament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 175.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 11 *at night.*)

Cettigné, April 11, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DELEGATES telegraph that their demands are to be submitted to the Senate, but that Safvet Pasha states that he regards war with Russia as inevitable. They propose to ask for a definite answer on Friday the 13th, as the Porte seems inclined to protract the negotiation.

Prince Nicholas telegraphs to-night approving this intention, and bids them, in case of a rejection of their demands or of delay in answering, to leave Constantinople by the first steamer for Odessa and Vienna.

It seems that Count Andrassy intends to make effort to bring about an arrangement at Vienna.

His Excellency promises to instruct my Austrian colleague immediately.

No. 176.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 12.)

Sublime Porte, le 29 *Mars*, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à ma note circulaire du 14 Mars, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-jointes en copie, pour votre information personnelle, la réponse de l'Agence des Principautés-Unies à Constantinople concernant l'incident survenu à Birghos, ainsi que ma réplique au Général Prince Ghika.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Prince Ghika to Safvet Pasha.

Le $\frac{5}{17}$ *Mars*, 1877.

M. le Ministre,

EN même temps que la note de votre Excellence du 11 Mars courant, au sujet de l'affaire dite, par erreur, de Pirgos, j'ai reçu de Bucarest sur cet incident qui, en réalté, a eu pour théâtre l'île Roumaine de Cama (Dinulu), des informations détaillées avec documents officiels à l'appui qui me permettent de fournir à votre Excellence des éclaircissements complets.

Depuis un certain temps, nombre de sujets Ottomans traversaient le Danube et abordaient à l'île Roumaine de Cama, située à 25 kilomètres en amont de Giurgevo et du côté gauche du thalweg du Danube, pour y couper du bois et le transporter en Turquie.

Le $\frac{3}{15}$ Février dernier, les gardes-frontières Roumains remarquèrent qu'une bande d'ouvriers Ottomans, escortés de gendarmes et dirigés par un Conseil Municipal de la ville de Roustchouck, se livraient dans l'île susdite à des coupes de bois considérables. Sur leur rapport, l'officier commandant à Giurgevo leur donna l'ordre d'arrêter quiconque se trouverait à Cama, et de ne se servir de leurs armes qu'après les sommations réglementaires et seulement dans le cas où ils rencontreraient une résistance à main armée.

Dès que les gendarmes Ottomans et les ouvriers, qui, sous leur surveillance et sous leur protection, dévastaient l'île Roumaine, se virent surpris en flagrant délit, ils se mirent sur la défensive. En vain les gardes-frontières Roumains leur adressèrent-ils les sommations de rigueur; en vain tirèrent-ils en l'air par essai d'intimidation; devant la résistance qui leur était opposée et pour riposter aux coups de feu dirigés contre eux, ils durent décharger leurs armes à leur tour. Deux des sujets Ottomans, Yahia Mehmed Agha, Conseiller Municipal de Roustchouck, et Ismaïl Ali, gendarme, qui avait ouvert le feu, tombèrent.

Voici, à ce propos, la déposition d'un des témoins oculaires, Mahmoud Abdurhaman, soldat Ottoman:—

Yahya Mehmed, qui portait un fusil à deux coups, déchargea l'un des canons de son arme sur la troupe Roumaine. Mais bientôt, touché lui-même à la jambe, il s'affaissa en faisant signe de la main à ceux qu'il conduisait de cesser le feu. Cependant, le Tchnouch

et un autre soldat Ottoman (qui par la suite put s'échapper) tirèrent encore deux ou trois coups de feu.

La plupart des Ottomans prirent la fuite, se jetèrent dans leurs barques amarrées au rivage de l'île et regagnèrent la rive Turque. Treize seulement d'entre eux (sur soixante à soixante-dix dont parlent les dépositions) furent arrêtés et traduits devant la justice. La collision était terminée; les deux Ottomans qui avaient été atteints ne survécurent pas à leurs blessures dont les lésions, ainsi qu'il appert de l'examen médico-légal ultérieur, étaient mortelles.

Le Gouvernement Roumain, avisé, s'empressa dès le $\frac{14}{26}$ Février, de transmettre des ordres pour une enquête et une instruction immédiates.

Le $\frac{15}{27}$ M. le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet du Danube adressa au Département des Affaires Etrangères de Bucarest une note qui désignait comme théâtre de l'incident l'Ile de Pirgos, et proclamait cette île propriété de l'Empire Ottoman.

Dans sa communication, M. le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet du Danube articulait les plaintes et réclamations ci-dessous:—

1. Les autorités Princières avaient refusé de consigner les deux cadavres aux mains de l'Agent Commercial Ottoman à Giurgevo, et ces cadavres avaient subi un traitement en quelque sorte sacrilège.

2. Les prisonniers devaient être immédiatement libérés.

3. Il était à désirer qu'une Commission Mixte fût instituée, à l'effet de constater les circonstances et le lieu de l'incident.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie s'empressa d'informer M. le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet du Danube qu'il adhérait à la proposition de l'institution d'une Commission Mixte, et lui communiqua les noms des délégués Roumains, aussitôt nommés.

Avant d'entrer dans le récit et la discussion des travaux de la Commission, il importe d'établir les points suivants:—

1. La législation en vigueur en Roumanie exige que tout cadavre trouvé sur territoire Roumain soit consigné à l'autorité judiciaire, laquelle a seule qualité pour rechercher la cause du décès et pour en examiner les circonstances. A cet effet l'Article 43 du Code d'Instruction Criminelle enjoint qu'il soit procédé d'urgence à une autopsie médico-légale. Un *visum et repertum* relatif à cet autopsie a été rédigé par les médecins compétents, à la requête du Juge d'Instruction et en exécution de la loi. Le traitement sacrilége contre lequel il a été protesté se trouve donc être une formalité indispensable à la poursuite des investigations judiciaires. Il n'est pas de Code Européen qui ne prévoie et n'ordonne la pratique de l'autopsie médico-légale dans tous les cas, quels qu'ils soient, de mort violente. Dans l'espèce cette autopsie était d'autant plus nécessaire qu'elle a établi par des constatations techniques rigoureuses que les lésions étaient en elles-mêmes mortelles, qu'il n'y a pas eu, selon certaines allégations, de tortures impitoyables infligées aux blessés, et que la cause de leur mort n'a nullement été le manque des soins dus à leur état. Votre Excellence sait d'ailleurs, sans qu'il soit besoin d'insister, qu'il n'est pas dans les mœurs Roumaines de maltraiter des mourants ou d'outrager les morts.

2. L'élargissement des prisonniers ne peut être prononcé que par le pouvoir judiciaire qui les détient jusqu'à parfaite enquête et strict accomplissement de toutes les prescriptions légales, interrogatoire, jugement de non-lieu, condamnation, &c., selon les cas. Le respect dû au pouvoir judiciaire, dont l'indépendance en Roumanie est garantie par la Constitution, interdisait donc *à priori* et sans parler des motifs subsidiaires, la mise en liberté des Ottomans arrêtés et non-jugés.

Les précédentes explications se réfèrent au côté juridique de la question et sont de nature à l'éclairer de toute la lumière désirable, en même temps qu'elles répondent aux plaintes ou aux réclamations formulées.

Je reviens maintenant à l'exposé des faits qui concernent plus spécialement la partie administrative et se rapportent à l'enquête réciproquement consentie.

Le $\frac{16 \text{ Février}}{2 \text{ Mars}}$, les délégués Ottomans et Roumains se réunissent en Commission Mixte dans le port de Giurgevo et à bord du navire Ottoman "Leghariè" et dressent un procès-verbal préliminaire par lequel il est expressément convenu que l'enquête portera sur les Iles de Pirgos et de Cama. C'était le seul moyen d'arriver à la vérité, car le Gouvernement Ottoman certifiait que le conflit avait eu pour théâtre l'Ile de Pirgos, tandis que le Gouvernement Roumain affirmait que la scène s'était passé à l'Ile de Cama.

La Commission fut conduite à une île divisée en deux par une sorte de chenal naturel, dont le lit reste à découvert et permet le passage à pied sec dès que les eaux du fleuve sont basses, mais qui ce jour-là, vu la hauteur des eaux, était comble. La région supérieure de l'île, à l'endroit où la lutte avait pris fin fut régulièrement examiné. Mais, quand les délégués Roumains voulurent, conformément aux conditions du programme délibéré et

arrêté d'un commun accord, pousser l'enquête plus avant, les délégués Ottomans déclarèrent qu'il était inutile d'aller plus loin; que la Commission au lieu où elle se trouvait alors était bien dans l'Ile de Pirgos, et qu'il suffisait d'avoir exploré l'endroit où étaient tombés les deux sujets Ottomans pour que leur mandat fût rempli de tout point.

En vain les Commissaires Roumains invoquèrent-ils les clauses stipulées au procès-verbal signé quelques heures auparavant par les délégués Ottomans, et s'attachèrent-ils à démontrer la nécessité de continuer l'investigation sur toute l'étendue de l'île qui était l'Ile de Cama pour se rendre ensuite à Pirgos, située plus en aval et placée comme Cama à la gauche du thalweg du Danube; leurs instances furent vaines et les délégués Ottomans persistèrent dans leur refus.

Devant cette difficulté dirimante, la Commission dut se séparer sans avoir parachevé son enquête et sans avoir pu en consacrer le résultat par un document bilatéral définitif.

A défaut d'un procès-verbal de la Commission Mixte, le Gouvernement Roumain, désireux de compléter ses informations, a eu recours aux dépositions des délinquants remis aux mains de la justice. Toutes ces dépositions s'accordent à reconnaître que les dépréda-tions ont été effectuées dans l'Ile de Cama, propriété de l'Etat Roumain. Il ressort même de certains interrogatoires que plusieurs des ouvriers, alors que les autorités Ottomanes les avaient requis en corvée et avant de quitter la rive droite du Danube, avaient su qu'ils allaient couper du bois dans une île Roumaine. Enfin, si les délégués Ottomans ne s'étaient pas inopinément abstenus de terminer l'œuvre qui leur incombait, ils auraient pu, pour rectifier leur erreur et se former une conviction conforme à la réalité, avoir égard à la notoriété publique et recueillir les témoignages probants d'habitants des environs et de plusieurs fermiers qui ont tour à tour et longtemps exploité le groupe d'îlots échelonnés à proximité de la rive gauche du Danube et dépendant de l'administration des domaines de l'Etat Roumain.

A côté des arguments énumérés plus haut, au-dessus des preuves déduites d'une étude minutieuse de toutes les circonstances qui ont précédé, accompagné ou suivi le conflit, se place un fait constant: les îles de Cama et de Pirgos sont situées à gauche du thalweg du Danube, lequel forme la limite naturelle entre les deux Etats. Ces îles sont donc de droit comme aussi elles ont été de fait depuis nombre d'années possession de l'Etat Roumain.

Ce long exposé établit amplement que le conflit de l'Ile de Cama a été provoqué par une de ces incursions en territoire Roumain si fréquentes de la part des habitants de la rive droite du Danube, et marquées depuis un certain temps d'un caractère d'exceptionnelle gravité, en raison de l'appareil avec lequel elles semblent être organisées.

Le Gouvernement Roumain, tout en signalant une fois de plus à la Sublime Porte l'intérêt urgent et réciproque qu'il y aurait à empêcher des incursions si regrettables à tous les points de vue, ne peut, en l'état de la question, qu'attendre la décision de la justice.

En terminant, je vous prie, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Ghika.

Le 21 Mars, 1877.

LES explications que vous m'avez fournies par votre lettre du 15 Mars, en réponse à ma communication du 11 du même mois, au sujet des faits dont l'Ile de Birghos a été le théâtre ne sont point de nature à satisfaire le Gouvernement Impérial, ni à tenir lieu des réparations auxquelles il a droit. Je ne saurais, d'ailleurs, suivre le Gouvernement Princier sur le terrain où il lui a convenu de porter la discussion. Il ne s'agit point, en effet, d'un crime privé commis par des Moldo-Valaques sur des sujets Ottomans et, dès lors, soumis aux règles ordinaires de la justice du pays, mais bien d'un acte accompli par une force militaire régulière, régulièrement commandée, qui engage la responsabilité du Gouvernement auquel cette force militaire appartient et qui doit être réparé par lui.

Sans chercher à faire ressortir l'invraisemblance du récit que vous opposez à l'exposé des faits contenus dans ma note du 11 Mars, je dois me borner à préciser les points essentiels suivants, que nous sommes autorisés à considérer comme hors de toute discussion.

L'agression a eu lieu dans l'Ile de Brighos, c'est-à-dire incontestablement sur le territoire Ottoman, ainsi qu'il a été constaté par la Commission d'Enquête, bien que les Commissaires Moldo-Valaques aient refusé de signer le procès-verbal.

La troupe d'ouvriers envoyés dans l'île était sans armes, à l'exception des deux

gendarmes qui les accompagnaient et du Conseiller Municipal de Roustchouk qui portait un fusil de chasse.

Dans ces conditions, il ne saurait être admis que nos sujets aient été les premiers agresseurs contre une demi-compagnie de soldats réguliers commandés par un officier. L'attaque est donc venue du détachement de troupes Moldo-Valaques auxquelles les nôtres n'ont pu opposer aucune résistance. Ils ont été littéralement fusillés; et en admettant même que le fait se fût passé sur le territoire Moldo-Valaque, il n'en serait pas moins coupable, puisqu'il ne serait justifié par aucune nécessité, et qu'en pareil cas l'autorité militaire aurait dû s'assurer de la personne des délinquants et non les mettre à mort. Par conséquent, l'excuse tirée de la croyance où aurait été l'officier Moldo-Valaque que l'endroit appartenait au territoire de la Principauté serait elle-même inadmissible.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, en présence de ces faits, n'a rien à attendre des tribunaux Moldo-Valaques et rien à leur demander. C'est au Gouvernement Princier qu'incombe le devoir de donner à la Sublime Porte les réparations qui lui sont dues, et qui ne peuvent consister que dans le châtiment exemplaire des coupables, une satisfaction publique aux autorités Impériales, et, enfin, une indemnité pécuniaire aux familles des victimes et aux sujets Ottomans qui ont été maltraités et injustement incarcérés.

Je suis convaincu que le Gouvernement Princier comprendra la nécessité de faire immédiatement droit aux demandes du Gouvernement Impérial qui sont justifiées et commandées par la nature et la gravité des faits qui les ont provoquées.

Agréez, &c.

No. 177.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 78. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, March 31, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE the departure of this morning's post, by which I forwarded to your Lordship my despatch No. 76, Confidential, of this day's date, respecting the propositions which my Austrian colleague intended to make to Prince Nicholas, in view of General Ignatiew's declaration as to the retention of Nichsich by Turkey, I have learned from Colonel Thümmel that his interview with His Highness was an exceedingly painful one; but that it resulted in nothing definite on the part of the Prince, except some very strong language about Russia, which I am confident that the Colonel, on his side, did not deprecate.

The portions of Nichsich plain with which Colonel Thümmel proposed that the Prince should content himself are the south-eastern and south-western corners, which are bounded respectively by the Mostanica and Graranica streams.

Colonel Thümmel also advised the Prince to maintain his demand for the Kutchi, and to refuse to cede the Vassoievitchi to Turkey.

The Prince, it seems, gave no hint of what he would do, confining himself to the simple answer that he reserved his decision, although he owned that the extreme destitution of the refugees necessitated a speedy determination one way or the other.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 178.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 79. Political.)

Cettigné, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams between myself and Mr. Green, and of a letter from Prince Nicholas' Secretary, showing the progress made in the execution of the arrangement for the transport of stores to Nichsich and of grain to Montenegro.

Your Lordship will see that both Prince Nicholas and Dervish Pasha seem desirous of being conciliatory.

Having some doubt as to whether the Turks were not somewhat imposing on Mr. Green and myself in their daily demands, which involve heavy expense in telegraphing, and some of which might certainly, I thought, be addressed directly to Montenegro

without our intervention, I sent him, on the 30th ultimo, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, a telegraphic hint to that effect.

Mr. Green has written me privately by messenger his reasons for acceding to Dervish Pasha's importunities; and although I do not think that his Excellency would dare to commit any high-handed act, to the violation of the agreement between Turkey and Montenegro respecting the mutual provisioning, I have thought it as well, in deference to Mr. Green's better information and judgment, to telegraph, through Vienna, that I hoped that he would continue to make use of me as necessity arises.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 178.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, March 30, 1877, 7·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PLEASED to have been able to communicate first paragraph of your telegram which gave great satisfaction.

Owing to inundations, delay occurring in passage of provisions up the river. 200 sacks of flour are here and 600 more are expected hourly. When these arrive all will be forwarded together at once. Pasha says, if Montenegro is in immediate want he is prepared to despatch from local stores 40,000 or 50,000 okes of maize. There is great difficulty in procuring horses for Nichsich. Pasha would, therefore, esteem it a favour if Prince would consent to allow his 200 horses to perform a second journey on proper payment by Turkish authorities.

Inclosure 2 in No. 178.

M. Duby to Mr. Monson.

Cettigné, le $\frac{29}{31}$ *Mars*, 1877.

Monsieur,

J'AI soumis à Son Altesse la dépêche de M. Green d'hier soir. Elle vous prie de répondre qu'elle accepte avec remercîments l'offre de Dervish Pacha d'avancer de ses approvisionnements 40,000 ou 50,000 okes de maïs, pour s'en rembourser en retenant une quantité égale sur les arrivages à destination de Monténégro.

Quant à la demande du Pacha de pouvoir louer, pour un second voyage à Nichsich, les chevaux qui lui sont prêtés pour un premier, le Prince s'y conformera avec plaisir si cela se peut. Avant de faire une réponse formelle il fait prendre des informations sur les lieux sur le nombre d'animaux disponibles.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) R. DUBY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 178.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, March 31, 1877, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS accepts with thanks Dervish Pasha's offer to advance 40,000 or 50,000 okes of maize, begging his Excellency to recoup himself by retaining an equal quantity of that arriving at Scutari on Montenegrin account.

As to the second journey of the horses to Nichsich, His Highness will have pleasure in acceding to Pasha's request if possible; but before giving a formal answer he must make inquiry as to the number of animals available.

No. 179.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 80. Political.)

Cettigné, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED at 2 o'clock this morning your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me in a telegram from Sir Andrew Buchanan, that I should support any representations made

by Austria and Russia to moderate the demands of Montenegro, and informing me that Count Andrassy thinks it advisable to limit the action of Austria and England to endeavouring to persuade the Porte to cede Kutchi, to abandon the claim to the Vassoievici, and to give sufficient guarantees for the return of the refugees.

Illness prevented my having an interview with Prince Nicholas yesterday (before the receipt of these instructions), and supporting, as I had intended to do, my Austrian colleague's advice reported in my despatch No. 78 of the 31st ultimo. It will not be possible for me to see His Highness this morning before the departure of the post at 11 A.M., but I shall not fail to carry out your Lordship's instructions in the course of the day.

The Russian Secretary now in charge of the Diplomatic Agency here told Colonel Thömmel and me yesterday that, according to his information, the Porte is to cede Nichsich and retain the Kutchi; but it is quite useless, I fear, to expect either straightforward language or honest co-operation from Russian Agents in these regions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 180.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 81. Political.)

Cettigné, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

MY Austrian colleague informs me that he received late last night a telegram fro Count Andrassy approving his advice to the Prince, and stating that the Austro-Hungarian Government would support at Constantinople his recommendations as to the cession of portions of the plain of Nichsich, and of certain additional territory contiguous to the mountain ranges traversed by the Donga Pass.

I have informed Colonel Thömmel that I have your Lordship's orders to act with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 181.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 141.)

St. Petersburgh, March 31, 1877.

My Lord,

AT an interview with Prince Gortchacow this morning, his Highness informed me, with evident satisfaction, that your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff had come to an agreement in regard to the Protocol, and that it would in all probability be signed to-day.

Prince Gortchacow expressed great anxiety that it should be presented to the Porte with the least delay, and he wished me to request your Lordship to telegraph the Protocol in full, with the necessary instructions, to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

His Highness observed that it was of great importance that the Imperial Government should receive the answer of the Porte before the $\frac{1}{13}$ April.

His Highness did not assign any reasons for specifying the above date at which it was of importance to Russia to receive the answer of the Porte; but I imagine that it refers specially to the armistice between Turkey and Montenegro, which expires on that day.

In referring to the peace negotiations with Montenegro, Prince Gortchacow did not speak with much confidence. He observed that the Prince of Montenegro would never subscribe to any terms in which he was treated as a vassal of the Porte, and His Highness added that, unless peace should be concluded between Turkey and Montenegro, a pacific solution would be impossible.

His Highness added that Russia will not abandon Montenegro. The feeling of all classes of the Russian nation was strongly in favour of the Christian population of that Principality, and would never permit it to fall under Turkish rule.

Prince Gortchacow expressed a hope that the influence of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople—of the exercise of which he was fully aware—would induce the Porte

to come to a satisfactory arrangement with Montenegro, whilst Russia had unceasingly urged moderation and concessions on Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 182.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 5*, 1877.

ON the receipt last evening of your Lordship's telegram, and not wishing to delay the communication of your Lordship's suggestions to Prince Gortchakow until I could have a personal interview with his Highness, I wrote to him a private note (copy of which I have the honour to annex), expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Imperial Government would use their influence with the Prince of Montenegro in favour of conciliation and peace.

I called to-day at the Foreign Office, and learnt from M. de Giers that Prince Gortchakow has on several occasions urged on the Prince of Montenegro a moderate and conciliatory course in the negotiations with the Porte, but that his Highness has confined himself to general terms, without entering into any details.

M. de Giers further stated that Prince Gortchakow had telegraphed to the Acting Russian Consul at Cettingé, in the absence of M. Jonine, instructing him to advise the Prince of Montenegro to avoid a rupture of the negotiations, and not to recall the Montenegrin Delegates before the expiration of the armistice.

In the course of conversation M. de Giers stated that General Ignatiew denies most positively that he has ever expressed any opinion or advice to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna against the cession of Nichsich by the Porte.

I imagine that this report was telegraphed by Aliko Pasha to Constantinople, was mentioned to the Montenegrin Delegates there, and reported to the Prince of Montenegro, and that it was to this circumstance that the Prince of Montenegro alluded in conversation with Mr. Monson when he referred to the answer he expected from St. Petersburgh on a subject on which he feared he had been duped.

In further conversation with M. de Giers, his Excellency stated that the intelligence from Constantinople was far from satisfactory.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires reported that the question of the Protocol was producing much agitation and distrust, and that there were symptoms of an intention, if not to refuse, to evade its acceptance in the Ministerial as well as in the higher circles.

In saying this, I understood that his Excellency did not allude to the disposition of the Sultan, but to that of his immediate attendants, and of Mahmoud Damad Pasha in particular.

Unless, therefore, the Porte should be happily guided by wiser counsels, it may be feared that any refusal or hesitation to accept the advice tendered by Europe in the Protocol will be followed by immediate coercive measures on the part of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

St. Petersburgh, April 4, 1877.

Mon Prince,

I AM instructed by the Earl of Derby to inform your Highness that, as it appears from the reports received by Her Majesty's Government from Cettingé that the decision of the Prince of Montenegro in regard to Nichsich now depends upon the answer he may receive from St. Petersburgh, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Imperial Government will use their influence with Prince Nicholas in favour of conciliation, and thus advance the policy of peace, which has been the object of the recent negotiations for the Protocol, and which have terminated so satisfactorily.

I profit, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 183.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 6, 1877.

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchacow this evening at 8 o'clock.

His Highness stated that he had received my private letter expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that he would use his influence with the Prince of Montenegro to adopt a conciliatory course in his negotiations with the Porte, and he said that he would send me an answer.

In regard to Montenegro, his Highness observed that it was an illusion to think that Nichsich was the only or real difficulty. He attached no special importance to Nichsich, and for his part should approve of razing the fortress if it should be ceded to Montenegro.

But, said his Highness, there is besides Nichsich the more important and sensitive question of the vassalage, and also that of the counter territorial claims urged by the Porte. Prince Gortchakow stated that, in his communications with the Prince of Montenegro, he has confined his counsels to general terms, exhorting conciliation and moderation without entering into any special questions of detail.

He observed that the last proposals submitted by the Prince of Montenegro were very moderate, and he informed me that, according to his last intelligence, if they were rejected the negotiations would be broken off. The Prince of Montenegro would remain on the defensive, the basis being that of *uti possidetis*.

His Highness then referred to the question of the Protocol. He stated that Russia did not require the acceptance by the Porte of the Protocol, but of the conditions contained in the written Declaration made by Count Shouvaloff, and, as a proof of conciliation and sincerity on the part of the Porte, the sending of a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to arrange the question of disarmament.

In regard to the intentions of the Porte, his Highness said that the intelligence received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires was not satisfactory.

The Porte had received information of the Protocol, as also of the Declarations annexed to it. He regretted that your Lordship's Declaration should have been known to the Porte, as he feared that it might encourage its resistance to the Protocol, and thus neutralize the good effect which it might otherwise have produced.

Prince Gortchakow then stated in an earnest and decided tone that if the Porte should reply verbally or in unsatisfactory or evasive language, the Imperial Government would consider the period of negotiations as closed, and the time for military action had arrived. It was impossible, said his Highness, for Russia to incur any longer the heavy pecuniary sacrifices which she was now bearing. The mobilization cost her 750,000 roubles daily, and it had continued for several months. Russia would not, therefore, consent to renew the thread of negotiations, which might be dragged on for months, to end only in a profitless result.

Prince Gortchacow observed that we had arrived at the eleventh hour, that it was now a question of days, and that a decision one way or the other must be taken by the 1st/13th April. He stated that the Emperor could make no further concessions, and that His Majesty would not recede from the position he had taken. The answer, therefore, of the Porte was of the most vital importance, as on it would depend the question of peace or war.

I have told his Highness of the instructions sent in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Mr. Jocelyn, to urge the Porte to accept the Protocol, and to avail itself of the opening thus afforded for the arrangement of a mutual disarmament. His Highness expressed his satisfaction, observing that he regarded it as the result of a telegram he had sent to Count Schouvaloff.

On his Highness referring to the coercive measures which Russia would adopt in the event of a refusal on the part of the Porte to accept the Protocol, I thought it right to remind his Highness of the engagement taken by the Powers severally in the concluding paragraph of the Protocol.

Prince Gortchakow replied that your Lordship's Declaration rendered the Protocol null and void in the event of the object proposed not being attained, viz., reciprocal disarmament on the part of Russia and Turkey, and peace between them.

I expressed my regret that any step should be taken by Russia which should destroy the European concert. As a means of gaining time, and possibly of maintaining peace, I venture to suggest that the Porte should announce its readiness to send a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh for the purpose of arranging a mutual disarmament. This act would give

proof of a conciliatory spirit on the part of the Porte, and may be the means—perhaps the only means—of averting serious complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 184.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 137. Confidential.)

Berlin, April 10, 1877.

My Lord,

IN a conversation on the coming Turko-Russian war, Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports, in his despatch No. 152 of the 6th instant, that Prince Gortchakow observed that it was now a question of days, and that a decision one way or the other must be taken by the 13th of April.

I gather from various conversations with well-informed persons that General Todleben, who was here on the 22nd ultimo, took the same view as the German military authorities on the coming campaign, namely, that it would be useless to commence serious operations before the roads were dry, because the wants of the army will have to be entirely supplied from Russia, and commissariat carts could not advance or follow with sufficient rapidity on bad roads.

It is thought that the crossing of the Pruth and the march to the Danube will occupy from five to six weeks. The crossing of the Danube may be a long and difficult operation, the duration of which cannot well be calculated beforehand, but the march from the Danube to the Balkan offers no strategical impediments and will be accomplished with comparative ease.

Military authorities and well-informed politicians in Berlin do not appear to think that Constantinople will be threatened, and the majority appear to wish the campaign to take place this summer, and not to be put off to another year, because they think that delaying an unavoidable war any longer would only be detrimental to commerce and industry, and to the final establishment of a sound and lasting peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 185.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 12.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 9 Avril, 1877.

LA Sublime Porte a reçu communication du Protocole signé à Londres le 31 Mars, 1877, par le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique et par les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie, ainsi que des déclarations y annexées du Principal Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique et des Ambassadeurs d'Italie et de Russie.

En prenant connaissance de ces actes, la Sublime Porte a éprouvé le regret très vif de voir que les Grandes Puissances amies n'ont pas cru devoir faire participer le Gouvernement Impérial à des délibérations dans lesquelles on a pourtant agité des questions ayant trait aux intérêts les plus vitaux de l'Empire. L'entière déférence dont le Gouvernement Impérial a fait preuve en toute circonstance aux conseils et aux vœux des Grandes Puissances, l'intime solidarité qui unit si heureusement les intérêts de l'Empire à ceux du reste de l'Europe, les principes d'équité les plus incontestables, enfin, des engagements solennels autorisaient la Sublime Porte à croire qu'elle serait appelée, elle aussi, à concourir à l'œuvre destinée à rendre la paix à l'Orient et à établir l'entente entre les Grandes Puissances à ce sujet, sur une base juste et légitime.

Mais, du moment qu'il n'en a pas été ainsi, la Sublime Porte se voit dans l'obligation impérieuse de réclamer contre l'autorité d'un tel précédent et de signaler les funestes conséquences qui pourraient en résulter dans l'avenir aussi, pour les principes tutélaires de la sécurité des relations entre Etats.

Passant à l'examen de ces actes, la Sublime Porte a acquis la conviction que, si les

Puissances Signataires avaient tenu un meilleur compte de l'échange de vues qui s'était établi lors des Conférences de Constantinople, des résultats obtenus dans l'intervalle qui s'est écoulé depuis, et de la nature des dangers nouveaux qui menacent la paix, il eût été peut-être facile d'arriver par une pondération équitable des grands intérêts en cause à un accord définitif qui ne fût subordonné ni à de graves lésions de droit ni à des conditions irréalisables.

Pendant les Conférences de Constantinople la Sublime Porte, s'appuyant sur la Constitution que Sa Majesté Impériale venait d'octroyer spontanément, et qui réalisait la réforme la plus large qui ait été vue dans cet Empire depuis son établissement, s'était efforcée de démontrer l'injustice de toute mesure qui, sous l'apparence de réforme, prendrait son développement dans des distinctions de provinces, de croyances ou de classes de sujets, ainsi que l'impossibilité pour elle de rien accepter de contraire à l'intégrité ou à l'indépendance de l'Empire. Ce double point de vue répond pleinement aux conditions du programme Anglais accepté par les Puissances. Ce programme posait en principe le maintien de l'intégrité et de l'indépendance de l'Empire, et demandait pour certaines provinces un système d'institutions offrant des gages contre la mauvaise administration et des actes d'autorité arbitraire. Or, le système d'institutions réclamées se trouvait naturellement réalisé en droit comme en fait par la nature même de la nouvelle organisation politique donnée à l'Empire sans distinction de langues, de croyances ou de provinces. Depuis lors, le Parlement Ottoman a été convoqué, et une Assemblée, issue d'un système d'élections libérales, et qui sera prochainement arrêté de manière à ne laisser prise à aucune critique fondée, siége actuellement à Constantinople et discute en pleine liberté les affaires les plus importantes de l'Etat. Si l'on a objecté contre ce système de réformes qu'il était encore trop nouveau pour porter immédiatement ses fruits, on peut faire remarquer en réponse que c'est là une objection qui aurait pu être tout aussi bien soulevée contre les réformes recommandées par les Plénipotentiaires étrangers et en général contre toute réforme qui, par cela même qu'elle constitue une innovation, ne saurait posséder dès le principe l'efficacité que la consécration du temps fait seule acquérir.

D'un autre côté, la sécurité intérieure était solidement rétablie. La Servie était rendue à la tranquillité, et des négociations, dans lesquelles la Sublime Porte continue de faire preuve de la plus grande modération, ont été entamées avec le Monténégro.

Malheureusement un fait nouveau se produisait dans l'intervalle, et les armements extraordinaires qui ont lieu depuis quelques mois dans toute l'étendue de la Russie, en obligeant la Sublime Porte à pourvoir à des mesures de défense, non seulement n'ont pas permis d'arriver à un apaisement complet des esprits, mais ont même fini par amener une situation pleine de dangers. La Sublime Porte se rendra la justice de constater qu'elle n'a rien négligé de ce qui était de nature à dissiper les doutes, à calmer les inquiétudes, et à ménager les susceptibilités les plus délicates.

A peine sortie des longs et dures épreuves que les menées révolutionnaires avaient cherché à déchaîner sur toutes les provinces de l'Empire, il était naturel qu'elle n'aspirât qu'au repos, et qu'elle n'eût d'autre désir que de se consacrer un moment plus tôt au travail fécond de sa régénération intérieure. Elle n'a pu, dès lors, que plus vivement déplorer de voir cet objet constant de ses vœux s'éloigner tous les jours davantage, au fur et à mesure que les nécessités majeures qu'on cherchait à lui imposer ne lui laissaient d'autre alternative que d'exiger de ses populations des sacrifices onéreux, d'épuiser ses finances par de grands dépenses improductives, et de s'occuper avant tout de la manière dont elle parviendrait à détourner un conflit de nature à troubler profondément la paix du monde.

Il est naturel que les Grandes Puissances se soient préoccupées de cette situation. La Sublime Porte, pour des raisons qui ne demandent pas à être développées, avait évité jusqu'à présent d'appeler officiellement l'attention des Puissances sur cette nouvelle phase de la question, la plus grave de toutes assurément. Mais les déclarations dont leurs Excellences Lord Derby et le Comte Schouvaloff ont fait précéder la signature du Protocole lui fournissent à elle aussi, aujourd'hui, occasion de saisir ces Cabinets amis de l'urgence qu'il y a de mettre un terme à cette complication si dangereuse, et dont il n'est pas au pouvoir de la Sublime Porte de retarder le dénoûment longtemps encore.

En conséquence, et en réponse à la déclaration de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie, la Sublime Porte, de son côté, notifie aux Puissances Signataires du Protocole la déclaration suivante :—

1. Adoptant envers le Monténégro la même ligne de conduite qui a amené la

pacification de la Servie, la Sublime Porte avait fait connaître spontanément au Prince, il y a déjà deux mois, qu'elle ne s'épargnerait aucun effort pour arriver à une entente avec lui, même au prix de certains sacrifices; considérant le Monténégro comme faisant partie intégrante du territoire Ottoman, elle a proposé une rectification de la ligne de démarcation qui assure au Monténégro des avantages, et il dépend désormais entièrement des conseils de modération qui prévaudront, la Sublime Porte aime à l'espérer, à Cettigné que cette affaire soit considérée comme terminée.

2. Le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à mettre en appliention toutes les réformes promises; mais ces réformes, conformément aux dispositions fondamentales de notre Constitution, ne sauraient avoir un caractère spécial et exclusif; et c'est dans cet esprit que le Gouvernement Impérial persévérera dans sa pleine et entière liberté à la mise en application de ses institutions.

3. Le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à remettre ses armées sur le pied de paix, aussitôt qu'il verra que le Gouvernement Russe prend des mesures dans le même but; les armements de la Turquie ont un caractère exclusivement défensif, et les relations d'amitié et d'estime qui unissent les deux Empires font espérer que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg ne persistera pas seul en Europe dans la pensée que les populations Chrétiennes en Turquie soient exposées de la part de leur propre Gouvernement à des dangers tels qu'il soit nécessaire d'accumuler contre un Etat ami et voisin tous les moyens d'invasion et de destruction.

4. Pour ce qui est des désordres qui pourraient éclater en Turquie et arrêter la démobilisation de l'armée Russe, le Gouvernement Impérial, qui repousse les termes blessants dans lesquels cette pensée a été exprimée, croit que l'Europe est convaincue que les désordres qui ont troublé le repos des provinces étaient dus à des excitations venues du dehors, que le Gouvernement Impérial n'en saurait être tenu responsable, et que, dès lors, le Gouvernement Russe aussi ne serait pas justifié à faire dépendre la démobilisation de ses armées de pareilles éventualités.

5. Quant à l'envoi à St. Pétersbourg d'un Envoyé Spécial chargé de traiter du désarmement, le Gouvernement Impérial, qui n'aurait aucune raison de se refuser à un acte de courtoisie que les convenances diplomatiques imposent à charge de réciprocité, ne voit aucune connexité entre cet acte de courtoisie internationale et le désarmement, qui ne saurait être retardé pour aucun motif plausible, et qui pourrait être effectué sur un simple ordre par télégraphe.

En faisant parvenir les déclarations qui précèdent aux Cabinets Signataires, la Sublime Porte les prie d'en prendre acte, d'apprécier l'esprit qui les a dictées, et de vouloir bien y attacher l'importance à laquelle elles ont droit dans la situation présente, situation dont le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait trop proclamer les dangers, et dont il décline formellement la responsabilité.

A la suite de ce qui vient d'être exposé plus haut sur les efforts que le Gouvernement Impérial a consacrés au rétablissement de la tranquillité, aussi bien que sur les causes qui en ont réellement prévenu les effets, les Cabinets Signataires du Protocole du 31 Mars n'auront pas de peine à se rendre compte du sentiment pénible que ce document ne pouvait manquer de produire sur le Gouvernement Impérial.

Il serait inutile de revenir ici sur les passages du Protocole relatifs aux deux Principautés et à la question du désarmement.

Mais ce qu'on ne saurait réellement assez regretter, c'est le peu de cas que les Puissances semblent avoir fait aussi bien des grands principes d'égalité et de justice que le Gouvernement Impérial cherche à faire prévaloir dans l'administration intérieure, que de ses droits d'indépendance et de souveraineté.

Il y a lieu de s'étonner en effet que dans ce Protocole les Puissances amies aient jugé nécessaire d'affirmer de nouveau "l'intérêt commun qu'elles prennent aux réformes à introduire en Bosnie, Herzégovine, et Bulgarie, que la Porte a acceptées sauf à les appliquer elle-même;" d'inviter la Porte à mettre en "œuvre dans le plus court délai possible les réformes à l'état des provinces dont la Conférence s'est préoccupée; d'exprimer l'espoir que la Porte prendra avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration effective unanimement réclamée, et qu'une fois entrée dans cette voie elle comprendra qu'il est de son honneur, comme de son intérêt, d'y persévérer loyalement et efficacement."

La Sublime Porte n'a pas accepté de réformes spéciales à la Bosnie, à l'Herzégovine, et aux localités habitées par des Bulgares.

Elle n'en est pas à douter qu'il est bien de son intérêt et de son devoir de satisfaire aux droits légitimes de ses sujets Chrétiens; elle ne saurait admettre que les améliorations qui lui sont recommandées doivent s'adresser exclusivement à l'élément Chrétien. Au lendemain des preuves de loyauté et de dévoûment que tous les sujets

de Sa Majesté ont données, et en présence de réformes qui tendent à unir toutes les populations de l'Empire en un seul corps politique, la Sublime Porte se doit à elle-même de repousser la suspicion que les expressions du Protocole voudraient jeter sur la sincérité de ses sentiments envers ses sujets Chrétiens, et, en outre, de réclamer contre l'indifférence, tout au moins, dont ces mêmes expressions témoignent à l'égard de ses sujets Musulmans et autres. Il n'est pas admissible que les améliorations tendant à assurer aux Musulmans aussi la tranquillité et le bien-être soient, aux yeux de l'Europe éclairée, tolérante et juste, dépourvues de toute importance. Des mesures ou plutôt des institutions propres à assurer à tous et partout également le libre développement moral et matériel des droits de chacun, c'est là le but que la Turquie se propose aujourd'hui; elle tiendra à honneur de persévérer dans cette voie; la Constitution en est la meilleure et plus sûre garantie.

Mais, si le Gouvernement Impérial se voit réduit à repousser toute idée par laquelle on essaierait de semer des germes d'antagonisme entre les divers éléments de ses populations et d'inspirer la méfiance de quelques unes d'entre elles vis-à-vis de leurs autorités légitimes, il ne saurait non plus souscrire, à aucun titre, à la sanction que le Protocole a entendu donner à l'application des améliorations ci-dessus énoncées. Ainsi, lorsque le Protocole dit que "les Puissances se proposent de veiller avec soin et par l'intermédiaire de leurs Représentants à Constantinople et de leurs Agents locaux à la façon dont les promesses du Gouvernement Ottoman seront exécutées," lorsqu'il ajoute "que, si cet espoir se trouvait encore une fois déçu, elles se réservent d'aviser en commun aux moyens qu'elles jugeront les plus propres à assurer le bien-être des Chrétiens et les intérêts de la paix générale," il est évident qu'il doit provoquer les protestations les plus légitimes du Gouvernement Impérial et son opposition la plus formelle. La Turquie, en sa qualité d'Etat indépendant, ne saurait se reconnaître comme placée sous aucune surveillance collective ou non. Entretenant avec les autres Etats amis des relations réglées par le droit des gens et les Traités, elle ne peut reconnaître aux Agents ou Représentants étrangers, chargés de protéger les intérêts de leurs nationaux, la mission de surveillance officielle. Le Gouvernement Impérial ne voit pas enfin en quoi il aurait démérité de la justice et de la civilisation au point de se voir faire une position humiliante et sans exemple dans le monde.

Le Traité de Paris a explicitement consacré le principe de non-intervention. Ce Traité, qui lie les Puissances qui y ont pris part aussi bien que la Turquie, ne saurait être aboli par un Protocole auquel la Turquie n'a pas co-opéré.

Et, si la Turquie en appelle aux stipulations du Traité de Paris, ce n'est pas parce que ce Traité aurait créé en sa faveur quelques droits qu'elle n'aurait pas sans ce Traité, mais bien pour rappeler les graves raisons qui dans l'intérêt de la paix générale de l'Europe avaient amené les Puissances, il y a vingt ans, à placer sous la garantie d'une promesse collective la reconnaissance de l'inviolabilité du droit de souveraineté de cet Empire. Quant à la clause qui, en cas d'inexécution des réformes promises, voudrait attribuer aux Puissances le droit d'aviser aux mesures ultérieures, le Gouvernement Impérial y voit une atteinte de plus à sa dignité et à ses droits, un procédé d'intimidation destiné à priver de toute mérite de spontanéité ses propres actes, et la source de graves complications pour le présent aussi bien que pour l'avenir.

Aucune considération ne saurait donc arrêter le Gouvernement Impérial dans sa résolution de protester contre les énonciations du Protocole du 31 Mars et de le considérer, pour ce qui concerne la Turquie, comme dépourvu de toute équité et par conséquent aussi de tout caractère obligatoire.

En butte à des suggestions hostiles, à des soupçons immérités, et à des violations manifestes de ses droits qui sont en même temps des violations du droit des gens, la Turquie sent qu'elle lutte aujourd'hui pour son existence.

Forte de la justice de sa cause et confiante en Dieu, elle déclare ignorer ce qui a pu être décidé sans elle et contre elle: décidée à conserver dans le monde la place que la Providence lui a destinée à cet égard, elle ne cessera d'opposer aux attaques qui sont dirigées contre elle les principes généraux du droit public et l'autorité d'un grand acte Européen, qui engage l'honneur des Puissances Signataires du Protocole du 31 Mars, lequel n'a pas d'exigibilité légale à ses yeux; elle en appelle à la conscience des Cabinets qu'elle est en droit de croire animés envers elle des mêmes sentiments de haute équité et d'amitié que par le passé. Le désarmement immédiat et simultané serait le seul moyen efficace de conjurer les dangers dont on menace la paix générale.

La réponse que le Gouvernement Impérial vient de faire plus haut à la déclaration de M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie offre aux Puissances les éléments propres à amener ce résultat, que bien certainement elles ne voudront pas chercher à obtenir en

persistant à imposer à l'Empire Ottoman des sacrifices de droit et d'honneur auxquels il ne consentira pas.

Vous êtes chargé de donner lecture de ce Mémoire à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et d'en laisser copie à son Excellence.

No. 186.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

IS it true, as reported in a letter from Pera in the "Times" of Tuesday, that a student of the military school at Constantinople was bastinadoed for having drawn up a petition about Midhat Pasha's banishment, and died under the infliction.

Answer by telegraph, as a question will be asked in the House to-morrow.

No. 187.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 12, 1877, 9 P.M.

PERSIAN Minister informs me that on 6th February a fanatical outbreak took place at Medina in which nine Persian pilgrims were killed and 300 wounded. He has represented the outrage to the Porte, which proposes a Mixed Commission to investigate it. He is anxious to [get] Mediating Powers to send delegates, and has asked me to refer the matter to your Lordship.

I think it extremely doubtful that the Porte would approve of our interfering in a purely religious question in the Hedjaz.

He says if ample satisfaction is not given, he is instructed to refer to Tehran, and that a rupture of relations will probably follow.

No. 188.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 243.) *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day and left with me a copy of a Circular despatch addressed by his Government to their Representatives, on the subject of the Protocol of the 31st March and of the Declarations by which that instrument was accompanied.

Having read this document, I expressed to his Excellency my deep regret at the view which the Porte had taken of a proceeding the principal object of which had been to extricate Turkey from a position of extreme embarrassment and danger. I thought it unnecessary to enter on any further discussion of a step which had been adopted by the Porte after full consideration, and which could not now be retraced. I said, however, that it did not seem to me clear, from the language of the despatch which he had placed in my hands, whether the Porte would or would not consent to send an Ambassador to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of mutual disarmament.

Musurus Pasha stated that his Government were not prepared to adopt any such measure, and he further expressed an opinion that matters could not be settled in a satisfactory manner unless the Powers consented to annul the Protocol.

I pointed out in reply, that the divergence between the views of our two Governments appeared so wide as to render discussion useless, and I said I did not see what further steps Her Majesty's Government could take to avert a war which appeared to have become inevitable.

The Turkish Ambassador answered that the attitude of his Government was simply defensive, that they did not desire war, but that they would prefer it to the sacrifice of national independence, which appeared to them to be involved in the acceptance of the Protocol.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 189.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 8. Consular.) *Aleppo, March* 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, respecting the murder of the Cavass of this Consulate, Ibrahim Kubevar, and to report that the Governor-General of the Province has received very stringent instructions relative to it from the Turkish Government. Five of the murderers have accordingly been arrested, though not without the active co-operation of this Consulate, and there are hopes of the sixth being soon captured. The trial has commenced. I shall continue to provide for the wants of the widow, as authorized by your Lordship, until I am informed of the final decision on this point.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 190.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 157.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive to-day your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant, repeating one from Constantinople of the 5th instant, in which Mr. Jocelyn reports a personal opinion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressed to him in the presence of the Grand Vizier, that if Russia should consent to withdraw the Declaration (I presume the Schouvaloff Declaration is referred to) and to leave open the question of territorial cession to Montenegro, he (Safvet Pasha) would undertake not only that the required reforms should be seriously carried out, but that the refugees should be reinstated to the satisfaction of the Prince of Montenegro, and that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat of a reciprocal disarmament.

On reading these proposals of Safvet Pasha, it appeared to me impossible that he could have been correctly informed as to the present feeling and disposition of the Imperial Government, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 152 of the 6th of April, or he could never suppose that the Russian Government either could or would withdraw the Declaration made by Count Schouvaloff, and which is incorporated in the *procès-verbal* signed by the Representatives of the Six Powers.

I thought it right, therefore, to convey to your Lordship by telegraph my conviction that if the proposals made by Safvet Pasha were submitted to the Imperial Government, they would be considered as a refusal by the Porte of the Protocol and Declaration, and that they would infallibly lead to immediate war.

The language held to me by Prince Gortchakow, as reported in my despatch No. 151 of the 6th instant, gave no hope that any further modifications would be made by Russia in the collective appeal of Europe to the Porte, and the Porte must therefore abandon all illusion as to any further concessions from Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 191.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 159.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 9, 1877.

My Lord,

GENERAL DE FLO, the French Ambassador, called on me this morning, and told me that he had just seen Prince Gortchakow.

His Highness informed him that he had received very unsatisfactory intelligence this morning from Constantinople.

The Porte, it appears, considers the Protocol humiliating, and is not disposed to accept it. While expressing the intention of meeting the wishes contained in the Declaration of Count Schouvaloff, it seems only disposed to accept them with reserves, and will only consent to send an Envoy to St. Petersburgh on terms of perfect reciprocity, requiring that a Russian Envoy should be sent to the Porte, and that he should leave

on the same day for Constantinople as the Turkish Envoy should leave for St. Petersburgh.

Prince Gortchakow is further informed that the Porte has decided to attack the Mirdites, and, in the event of the negotiations being broken off, to establish a blockade of Montenegro.

Notwithstanding this discouraging intelligence, I am informed that Prince Gortchakow is still disposed to receive a Turkish Special Envoy, provided that he should be instructed to treat the questions at issue seriously, and bring them to a conclusion without delay.

Prince Gortchakow appeared to consider any understanding with Turkey as hopeless, and unless some fortuitous change should take place in the present disposition of the Porte, there is every reason to fear that a rupture between Russia and Turkey is inevitable.

Prince Gortchakow indicated to the French Ambassador that a decision must be taken in three days, and gave him to understand that an Imperial manifesto would be published on the 13th instant if no satisfactory reply was received by that date from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 192.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 161. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE on two occasions spoken seriously to Tefvik Bey, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, on the gravity of the present crisis and of the danger to the relations between Russia and Turkey should the present endeavours of Europe fail in bringing about a pacific solution of the existing complications.

I represented to him the urgent necessity for the Porte, in its own interests, to conclude a speedy and satisfactory peace with Montenegro, and on terms which should convert Prince Nicholas into a friend and ally of the Porte, in lieu of being a foe.

To gain this end the Porte ought not to weigh in the balance a few miles of territory, which under present circumstances produced no revenue, and was rather an expense to the Porte.

It should be the object of the Porte to encourage agricultural and industrial pursuits in the Montenegrin population, and seek by these means to eradicate their natural warlike propensities.

I warned him that the Prince of Montenegro would not be abandoned by Russia, and that should the present negotiations with Montenegro be broken off, and hostilities recommence, it was my conviction that Russia would not passively view any invasion of Montenegro.

In regard to the relations of Russia and Turkey, I expressed my belief that the Emperor of Russia, up to the present moment, and even now, was desirous of peace. As he was probably aware, a Protocol had been signed in London expressing the opinions of the European Powers.

An opportunity was now offered to Turkey to come to a pacific arrangement, and great would be her responsibility, and still greater, perhaps, her misfortune, if she failed to avail herself of it.

It was proposed to the Porte to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to arrange the question of disarmament with Russia, to which His Majesty the Emperor, on his side, would likewise consent.

I stated to Tefvik Bey that I could not too strongly urge on him to recommend this course to the Porte as the surest, if not the only, means of averting from his country the calamities of war.

Tefvik Bey thanked me for the friendly advice I had given, and on each occasion said that he would telegraph it to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 193.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 13, 1877, 2 A.M.*

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated Circular respecting the Protocol.

I expressed deep regret of Her Majesty's Government at view taken by the Porte, but thought it unnecessary to enter on further discussion of a step which had been adopted by the Porte after full consideration, and which could not now be retraced.

In answer to a question from me, Musurus Pasha said that his Government were not prepared to send an Ambassador to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of mutual disarmament, and he expressed an opinion that matters could not be settled in a satisfactory manner unless the Powers consented to annul the Protocol.

I pointed out in reply that the divergence between the views of our two Governments appeared so wide as to render discussion useless, and I said I did not see what further steps Her Majesty's Government could take to avert a war which appeared to have become inevitable.

Musurus Pasha answered that the attitude of his Government was simply defensive, that they did not desire war, but that they would prefer it to the sacrifice of national independence, which appeared to them to be involved in the acceptance of the Protocol.

No. 194.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 13, 1877, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I shall be happy to use my good offices in regard to the outbreak at Medina if acceptable to both the Governments of Turkey and Persia; but so far as your report would show it does not appear to be a matter for reference to the Powers, and might well be settled between Persia and Turkey alone.

No. 195.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 13, 1877.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of last night I have ascertained that no student of the military school was bastinadoed, and that the letter in the "Times" on this subject is altogether an invention.

No. 196.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, April 13, 1877, 5 P.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Delegates telegraph that the Porte categorically refuses all their demands and that they will take formal leave to-morrow, and that for Odessa and Vienna on Monday the 16th.

They add that Prince Nicholas may expect to be attacked immediately on the side of Niehsich. Grand Vizier telegraphs to Prince that the negotiations are broken off, and that there is to be no more prolongation of armistice nor suspension of hostilities.

I do not think the Turks are in a position to attack with advantage, and I believe that all the necessary precautions have been taken by the Montenegrins.

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* Repeated to Mr. Taylour Thomson, with telegram from Mr. Jocelyn.

No. 197.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 13.)

St. Petersburgh, April 13, 1877, 7·47 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Circular answer to Protocol was communicated here yesterday. It is regarded as a rejection of all the proposals and closing the door to any further negotiations. I believe that Imperial decision is taken, but will not be published until previous reference to European Powers. War is thought to be inevitable, but it is generally deplored.

No. 198.

Consul Richetts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 13.)

Tiflis, April 13, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TWO batteries and 1 battalion gone to Ozozurt; 2 batteries gone to frontier from Suram; 1,000 Tartar militia gone to Alexandropol; 38th and 20th divisions not arrived; I do not think they can reach frontier before 25th. Daghistan reported in revolt. Reported Russians are drawing troops from Kischeneff to make main attack from Caucasus. I cannot answer for truth of this report, but inquiry might be made from Odessa.

No. 199.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 13.)

April 13, 1877, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SON ALTESSE a adressé au Grand Vézir le télégramme suivant:—

"J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la dépêche de votre Altesse de ce jour, et tout en regrettant comme elle que nos négociations n'aient pas abouti, je prends note que la Sublime Porte n'a pas le projet de me proposer un nouveau prolongement d'armistice."

No. 200.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 13.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 13 *Avril*, 1877.

My Lord,

JE m'empresse de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je reçois à l'instant de son Excellence Safvet Pacha, et qui contient celle que son Altesse le Grand Vizir vient d'adresser au Prince du Monténégro pour constater l'expiration de l'armistice.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

Constantinople, le 13 *Avril*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Sublime Porte vient d'adresser au Prince du Monténégro le télégramme suivant:—

"L'armistice arrêté entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Principauté du Monténégro a expiré aujourd'hui. Les négociations pour amener le rétablissement de la paix étant malheureusement restées sans résultat, je crois devoir prévenir votre Altesse que la Sublime Porte a décidé que la suspension d'armes ne serait ni renouvelée ni prolongée."

No. 201.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 254.)

Foreign Office, April 13, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE the advice given by you to the Porte, as reported in your despatch No. 241 of the 30th ultimo, relative to the proceedings of Dervish Pasha in Mirdicia, and I have to instruct you to continue to urge the Porte to pursue a conciliatory policy towards the Mirdite tribes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 202.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 14.)

Foreign Office, April 13, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 79 of the 2nd instant, I have to state to you that I approve your having arranged with Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari that you should continue for the present to be the medium of communications respecting mutual supplies of provisions passing between the Turkish authorities in Albania and Prince Nicholas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 203.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

(No. 126 A.)

Foreign Office, April 13, 1877.

Sir,

I INCLOSE herewith copy of a despatch which I addressed yesterday to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,† containing a report of a conversation which I had had with the Turkish Ambassador on his communicating to me a copy of the Circular despatch addressed by his Government to their Representatives on the subject of the Protocol and the accompanying declarations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 204.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 127. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, April 13, 1877.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me to-day and made to me a suggestion, which he said was a purely personal one, as to a possible method of still bringing about a mutual disarmament on the part of Russia and Turkey.

If, his Excellency said, there was a fixed determination both on the part of Russia and of Turkey to have recourse to war, it was useless to make any attempt to find a means of escape from the difficulty. This, however, was not an assumption which we were entitled to make, and in the contrary case the Turkish answer might still be held to offer an opening for arrangement.

The criticism of the Protocol was not to the purpose, since upon this point the Powers did not accept any discussion. The Protocol might not be agreeable to the Porte, but that did not alter the fact of its existence. The question which required a solution was that of disarmament, and of the mission for that purpose of a Turkish Delegate with whom the Russian Government would be ready to come to an agreement. The Porte declared that it was earnestly desirous of disarmament, that it was ready to send a Plenipotentiary as an act of courtesy on condition of reciprocity, but that it saw no connection between

* Identic despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell, Lord A. Loftus, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.
† No. 188.

this act of courtesy and disarmament, which latter step could be effected by a simple order. The Porte was ready to give this order if the same order was given by Russia.

Might we not address the two parties as follows?:—

To Russia it might be said that the Porte lays stress on the question of form, but is not unfavourably disposed as regards the substance. Its objection is that the matter is not one for negotiation, but for an order. Tell the Porte, then, that if it will give this order, and require its prompt execution, you will do the same. (It must be remembered that the idea of sending a Plenipotentiary was only imagined by Count Schouvaloff in order to facilitate and render possible a preliminary assurance on the part of his Government; that it was therefore a simple question of form).

To Turkey it might be said: You say that all that is required is an order. Well, then, give the order. By this step you, who have put yourself in the wrong by an obstinate refusal, will release yourself from all responsibility. We count on Russia following your example, but it will then be our right and our duty to insist upon her doing so, which for the moment you have made it impossible for us to do.

I thanked Count Buest, and said his suggestion should be carefully considered, but I owned that I felt little hope of being able to induce the parties to come to an arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 205.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Beyrout, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, on the recent agitation in Mount Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Jocelyn.

Beyrout, March 31, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant, reporting certain rumours respecting an agitation in the Druze or mixed districts of Mount Lebanon, I have the honour to inform you that the agitation, the reports concerning which that were current at Beyrout were greatly exaggerated, has now almost completely ceased to exist, and this result is to be chiefly attributed to the energetic and at the same time sage measures adopted by his Excellency Rustem Pasha.

During the last fortnight I have received from almost all the influential Druzes of the Lebanon most positive assurances that there has never existed amongst them the slightest intention of troubling the public peace or in any way whatever molesting their Christian neighbours, with whom they are most anxious to live on terms of harmony and good-will, being convinced that any discord which might lead to troubles would most likely produce disastrous effects in depriving the Lebanon of the privileges which its inhabitants at present enjoy under the Réglement, and would certainly lead to the irretrievable ruin of the Druzes themselves were they to attempt to repeat their acts of 1860, and in this conviction I believe they are sincere, as I have always impressed upon them that such results would inevitably follow any attempt on their part to bring about troubles in the mountain.

The Druzes, however, admit that for more than a year they have availed themselves of opportunities of procuring arms, in order to be prepared for any eventualities which might arise out of the difficult position in which the Ottoman Empire is placed, but without the least intention of using them against their Christian brothers, who were doing the same with similar intentions as to the future, which appeared so uncertain.

Notwithstanding all these assurances, I believe that if the recent agitation had been allowed to go on unchecked, and had not been discouraged by the authorities and influential persons, it might have led to very serious consequences, if not to a general disturbance, as there is no doubt a few evil-disposed persons, for their own selfish ends, had succeeded in exciting some of the unreflecting and youthful amongst both the Christians and Druzes, and in creating a feeling of mutual distrust, which would have spread had the movement not been nipped in the bud, but as it was taken in hand at once I have every confidence that the tranquillity of the Lebanon will be preserved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 206.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 20. Political.)
Beyrout, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 30 and its inclosure, which I addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the 31st ultimo, reporting on a case of murder in the neighbourhood of Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Jocelyn.

Beyrout, March 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting a murder committed by certain Mussulmans of Tripoli upon the territory of Mount Lebanon.

I have since learnt that one of the Mussulmans who is supposed to have fired the fatal shot has been arrested by the authorities of Tripoli, and already consigned to those of the mountain for trial, and that his two companions are also said to have been taken into custody, and are now on their way to join their companion in the prisons of the Lebanon.

The promptitude of the authorities of the vilayet in seizing and surrendering to the jurisdiction of the Tribunals of the Lebanon the authors of this crime cannot fail to produce an excellent effect upon the population of both the mountain and the districts that surround it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

Tripoli, le 22 Mars, 1877.

M. le Consul-Général,

DANS la journée de Mardi 20 courant, un assassinat a été commis sur le territoire de Sgarta et y a produit une violente émotion.

Trois jeunes Musulmans de Tripoli étaient depuis quelque temps en relation avec deux filles de ce village et leur donnaient des rendezvous dans la campagne. Le garde-champêtre les surprit un jour et dénonça les filles à leurs parents qui leur infligèrent une correction malheureusement inutile. Mardi dernier, le rendezvous était donné au lieu dit Dahr-Ansarié, dans un champ planté d'arbres, non loin de la rivière, à un quart d'heure à peine du village. Le même garde champêtre se présenta inopinément. Un des jeunes gens armé d'un fusil demanda aux filles si c'était là l'homme qui les avait dénoncées; sur leur réponse affirmative, il fit feu, et l'homme tomba roide mort.

La détonation fut entendu, l'alarme fut donné. En un instant, toute la population en

masse fut sur pied, et se précipita sur le lieu du crime. Le Mudir, Assad Béik Karam, prévenu le premier, s'élança au devant de cette multitude et obtint des hommes à grand peine qu'ils laissassent leurs armes à la maison. Il trouva le garde étendu dans son sang, et le fit lever après que toutes les constatations juridiques eurent été faites. Il fit battre la compagne dar des troupes de paysans pour se faire amener tous les gens qui s'y trouvaient dispersés. A côté du cadavre étaient encore des oranges, des bonbons, des douceurs de Tripoli et diverses pièces de conviction indiquant clairement la nature du rendezvous. On trouva une des filles blottie dans des broussailles, sous un arbre. L'autre s'était enfouie, mais ne tarda pas à être retrouvée. C'est par elles qu'on connut les détails de l'assassinat et les noms des coupables.

Un Chrétien de la ville me racontait ce matin que, revenant lui-même, Mardi, de Sgarta, il avait rencontré les trois Musulmans qui évidemment allaient au rendezvous. Il ne les connaissait pas et ne les reconnaîtrait pas s'il les voyait, il n'eut pas même fait attention a eux sans une circonstance qui le frappa. L'un des trois était porteur d'un fusil, et il se fit la reflexion que si, au lieu d'être Musulman, cet homme eut été Chrétien, on l'eût arrêté immédiatement.

Il faut voir maintenant, comment l'autorité de Tripoli va se comporter dans cette grave conjoncture. Les coupables seront sans aucun doute arrêtés, s'ils ne le sont pas déjà, mais, les livrera-t-elle à l'autorité de la montagne? ou prétendra-t-elle que le lieu du crime dépend de Tripoli? J'ai peine à croire qu'elle se décide à prendre ce dernier parti, tant l'évidence serait contre elle. Mais les précédents autorisent toutes les présomptions à cet égard.

Quoiqu'il en soit, cette affaire est de nature à compromettre la tranquillité publique dans nos environs, et il serait profondément malheureux qu'elle s'éteignit, comme tant d'autres, sans que bonne et prompte justice fut rendue.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

No. 207.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 116.) *Rome, April* 9, 1877.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have learnt from my telegram of the 5th instant that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, though desirous of acting with Her Majesty's Government in the matter of sending back their Minister to Constantinople, was, nevertheless, of opinion that the Representatives should not return unless the Porte manifested some inclination to act in conformity with the recommendation of the Protocol.

When Signor Melegari spoke to me to this effect, I submitted to his Excellency whether he did not think that the presence of a Representative of higher rank than a Chargé d'Affaires would be of use in bringing the Porte to accept the principles of the Protocol, and that consequently the sooner the Italian Government sent back their Minister the better.

His Excellency replied that the Representatives having been withdrawn because the Porte had declined compliance with the recommendations of the Conference, it appeared to him that until the Powers had obtained some sort of satisfaction from the Porte in regard to the acceptance of the Protocol, to send back those Representatives would be as it were to court a further rebuff at the hands of the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government, his Excellency continued, was sending a Special Ambassador to Constantinople, and this made the case somewhat different; but it was impossible for him, he said, to make any special appointment, or to send anyone else to Constantinople but Count Corti, the very Minister who had been withdrawn because of the Porte's shortcomings, and who could not, therefore, return unless the Porte showed a disposition, at least, to be more amenable to reason. His Excellency added that he could not help thinking that Her Majesty's Government would also see matters in this light. When they had decided on Mr. Layard's appointment, they might have had reason to hope, as he had himself, that the Porte would agree to the principles of the Protocol, but the information since received from Constantinople was not very encouraging in this respect, and he would, therefore, be glad if I would ascertain your Lordship's views upon the matter under the changed aspect of affairs.

This I promised to endeavour to do; but I remarked to his Excellency that I had understood from him in recent interviews that he was anxious for an opportunity of placing the diplomatic representation of Italy at Constantinople on its previous footing,

out of regard to the important interests of Italy in Turkey, and that he was only waiting for the initiative to be taken by England in order to send back Count Corti.

On the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 6th instant, I lost no time in acquainting Signor Melegari that the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government to send an Acting Ambassador to Constantinople had been arrived at irrespective of the attitude of the Porte, and that it would appear all the more necessary to have a special Representative if the state of affairs is critical.

Signor Melegari repeated what he had previously said respecting its being impossible for him to send any special Representative to Constantinople, and that it would not be becoming that Count Corti should return unless the Porte evinced some kind of disposition to follow the advice of the Powers. An announcement that an Envoy would be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat the question of disarmament would be sufficient. Count Corti had orders to hold himself in readiness and could start at any moment.

I replied that it was far from my wish to press his Excellency on this matter. As the Italian Ambassador in London had made a declaration similar in purport to that made by your Lordship on signing the Protocol, it would have been natural that the two Governments should have acted together in regard to the question which we were discussing, but his Excellency, I said, was of course the best judge of what the interests of Italy required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 208.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 117.) *Rome, April* 9, 1877.

My Lord,

[N the afternoon of the 5th instant, Count Tornielli, the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, called at my house to communicate a telegram dated the same day at 1 o'clock in the morning from the Italian Consul at Scutari, stating that the Ottoman troops intended to attack the Mirdites immediately, but that he and his English colleague had obtained a respite of forty hours. The Consul added that the Consuls of the other Powers had declined joining in the representation to the Turkish Commander.

Count Tornielli informed me that immediate instructions had been or would be sent to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to do all he could to induce the Porte not to sanction this attack, and he requested in the name of M. Melegari that I would at once communicate with your Lordship, in the hope that similar instructions might be sent to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

When I saw Signor Melegari on the morning of the 7th, he said that although he had thought it right to put me at once in possession of the intelligence he had received, he had never seriously believed that the Porte could contemplate anything so rash as to add this additional complication to those already existing. He then read me a telegram from M. Gavagna, saying that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom he had immediately called on for the purpose of executing his instructions, had professed entire ignorance of any attack on the Mirdites being intended, but had promised to see the Grand Vizier and telegraph for information to the Commander of the Turkish forces. M. Gavagna added, however, that what seemed certain was that troops were being concentrated on the Montenegrin frontier.

As M. Gavagna stated Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires had seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs in reference to the reported intended attack on the Mirdites the same day as himself, I concluded that by telegraphing M. Gavagna's information I should only be repeating what your Lordship would already have heard from Mr. Jocelyn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 209.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 122.)

My Lord, *Rome, April 10, 1877.*

I CALLED on the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, when his Excellency read me a telegram, dated yesterday, which he had received from the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to whom he had sent instructions to urge the Porte, in the strongest terms, to send an Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat the question of mutual disarmament.

M. Gavagna states that he had been unable to see Safvet Pasha, who was attending a Council of Ministers, but that he had communicated his instructions to Caratheodory Effendi, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who had taken note of them, and had promised to lay them, without loss of time, before the Minister.

He learnt from Caratheodory Effendi that the question of sending an Envoy to St. Petersburgh was still under consideration; but that the resolution of the Porte not to accept the Protocol, or the terms of peace proposed by Montenegro, might be considered irrevocable.

M. Gavagna, at the conclusion of his telegram, observes that the reserve and abstention of the German Chargé d'Affaires in all these negotiations appears to him worthy of remark.

I am bound to add that the attitude of the Porte under present circumstances—her apparent determination not to yield on any point, albeit one of form or of *amour propre*, has produced the most unfavourable impression here, and has almost brought about the belief that she does not wish to avoid a conflict.

In speaking of the state of affairs in the Mirdite districts, and in reference to the reports at one time current as to the Mirdite movement being encouraged by Italian sympathizers, &c., M. Melegari informed me that the Italian fleet had been ordered to cruize off the coast of Albania, to prevent any disembarkation from Italy being attempted there, which, however, he thought very unlikely.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 210.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 14, 1877, 7 A.M.*

WITH reference to Monson's telegram of yesterday, what is he to do in the event of the resumption of hostilities between Porte and Montenegro? The Prince, I understand, wishes the foreign Agents to accompany him during military operations in which he may be engaged, but Monson is anxious to leave on account of his health. It is believed here that if the Turks are not strong enough to force Douga Pass, Nichsich must surrender in less than a month.

No. 211.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 14, 1877, 8 A.M.*

ALL has been arranged for Mr. Layard's reception. "Antelope" will have to stop at Dardanelles, where the first Drogoman of the Embassy and the Dragoman of the Divan will join her.

No. 212.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 14, 1877, 10 A.M.*

LAST proposals made by the Montenegrin Delegates were finally rejected by the Foreign Minister yesterday, and they consequently informed His Excellency that they had received orders to break off negotiations and to quit Constantinople.

They are much disappointed, and especially nettled at the claim of vassalage put forward by the Porte.

I am informed that they are to leave on Tuesday by the Danube and Trieste.

No. 213.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14, 4·10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 14, 1877, 1·30 P.M.*

IT is reported that the Emperor, accompanied by the Czarewitch, will leave on Thursday for Kischeneff.

In the event of war, will Her Majesty's Government permit Colonel Wellesley to accompany the Russian army?

No. 214.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April 14, 1877, 3 P.M.*

MR. LAYARD sends you the following:—

"I have just seen the Duc Decazes. He tells me that he has sent M. d'Harcourt to England on purpose to see your Lordship, and to suggest that the Powers should fall back upon the last Article of the Protocol, and endeavour to frame some proposal or arrangement which might be acceptable to the Porte in the interests of peace. He does not suggest a Conference but a 'causerie' in London or elsewhere, at which the Powers, through the Representatives, might come to some understanding. If this were found impossible, he thinks that I might suggest to the Sultan to act upon the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris and to ask for mediation—as the present case is one especially within the object of the Article—as after all only questions of dignity and 'susceptibilities' are really at the bottom of the difficulties. He thinks that I might suggest at the same time to the Sultan that he should issue a Firman announcing disarmament of his own spontaneous will. This disarmament would actually take a little time to effect, and would place Russia in such a position that she could scarcely precipitate war, and would give an opportunity for further endeavours on the part of the Powers in the interests of peace. He says that he has used all his influence with Prince Orloff to induce Russia not to go to war, and has pointed out all the dangers she would incur by doing so. He says he possesses complete evidence that Prince Bismarck is pushing the Turks, and Austrians too, on to war.

"Duc Decazes added that had not the Porte's answer to the Protocol been such as it is, he would have sent the French Ambassador to Constantinople, but that he could not do so at any rate for the present. He has consulted Berlin, Vienna, and Rome, and finds that I may be of great use at Constantinople alone, and assures me that he will give instructions to French Representatives to act entirely with me. Although not sanguine about preventing war, he appears still to have hopes that peace may be preserved."

No. 215.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 14, 1877.*

ORDERS are being given for the immediate concentration of the troops.

No. 216.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 257.)

Foreign Office, April 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 239 of the 30th ultimo, transmitting copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Dupuis respecting outrages at Bektigides and Obroukli, and I approve of your having instructed him to proceed to the latter place to inquire into the circumstances of the case.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 217.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Serajevo, April 14, 1877.

RUSSIAN Consul is ordered to quit Bosnia; he leaves to-day; his Secretary a day or two later.

Russian interests left in charge of German Consul.

No. 218.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Tiflis, April 14, 1877.

THERE was no revolt in Daghistan, but there was a revolt near Ozurget, where some villages have been burnt by the Abkhas.

No. 219.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 22. Political.)

Salonica, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a report, with a copy of its inclosure, which I addressed on the 27th instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, relative to the outrages which have been recently perpetrated by the Circassians in the district of Cattarina upon Mahommedans and Christians.

Information reached here to-day that one of the Mahommedan Albanians, the nephew of Dervish Bey, a landowner in that district, has died from the effects of the ill-treatment he experienced at the hands of these Circassians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, March 27, 1877.

Sir,

ON the 25th instant I sent you a telegram in cypher, reporting that outrages have been recently perpetrated by the Circassian colonists in district of Cattarina, and that I had in consequence urged the Pasha of Salonica to arrest the Chiefs of these colonists, and disarm their village (Tetova), and begging you to endorse and support these proposed measures at the Porte.

I now have the honour to inclose the Report which the First Dragoman of this Consulate, Mr. Bizzo, addressed to me on the subject. The contents of this Report are to be relied upon, as they have been furnished by Mr. Bizzo's brother, who has been long resident at Cattarina. I at once prepared and forwarded to the Pasha of Salonica a statement in

Turkish of these outrages, and I have strongly urged his Excellency to take prompt and efficient measures for the protection of the inhabitants in the district of Cattarina, and, above all, to arrest the Circassian Chiefs and disarm their village.

He approved of the above suggestions, and promised to carry them out; but as, since my return here from Constantinople, I have observed signs of want of energy and severity on his part, and on that of his provincial subordinates, in dealing with these Circassians and other criminals, I thought right to report telegraphically the matters to you. I should also report that yesterday I was informed that the church in the Greek village Keretch-Kioi (Neohori), about two hours distant from Salonica, was robbed on the 25th instant, at midnight, of all its silver images or ornaments, and that it is also said that a similar sacrilege has been perpetrated in Kolesna, a village near Stroumnitza, a town two days' journey from here; but I have not yet been able to verify the latter statement. My Greek colleague informs me that in the district of Stroumnitza, especially in Malish Nahia (Canton), occupied principally by Bulgarians, the Christian inhabitants are molested by the Turks; and I hear from other sources that in the Province of Monastir, in the districts of Ochrida and Stronga in particular, the Albanian Ghegas of Dibra are assuming a menacing attitude towards the Christians. On the whole, I very much regret to say that, from all I hear and observe, there appears to be a growing feeling of animosity on the part of the Turks towards the Christian inhabitants in this part of Roumelia, which excites the alarm and uneasiness of the latter, and which may in the present critical state of the Empire lead to very serious disorders, unless its progress is checked by special remedial measures. It is of paramount importance that the Central Government should give its consideration to the subject, especially as the calling out of the "Mustahfiz" Militia may add much to the general insecurity which at present prevails in the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

M. Bizzo to Consul Blunt.

Salonique, le 25 Mars, 1877.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que d'après une lettre que je viens de recevoir de Catterina à l'instant même, un Circassien de la ferme de Husné Bey, Albanais Musulman, et du village de Bratinisto, a été trouvé tué. Le Mudir de Catterina avec le Cadi et autres personnes de l'autorité se sont rendues sur les lieux immédiatement pour la constatation du crime et, d'après les informations prises, il paraîtrait que le susdit Circassien qui a été tué, appartenait à une bande de voleurs et qu'il avait aussi beaucoup d'ennemis parmi ses concitoyens et coreligionnaires, et en conséquence on suppose que le meurtre a été opéré par quelqu'autre Circassien ou Albanais.

Les Circassiens du village de Topova se sont armés à la suite du dit meurtre et ils ont arrêté trois Albanais Musulmans lesquels après avoir été assez mal traité, dont l'un se trouve être en danger, ils ont été conduits par les mêmes Circassiens dans les prisons de Catterina. En même temps d'autres Circassiens ont arrêté trois Chrétiens et deux Bohémiens, et ils les ont dévalisés, après quoi ils les amenèrent à Topova comme prisonniers.

Le Mudir de Catterina s'est empressé de faire mettre en liberté les trois Albanais susénoncés, ainsi que les Chrétiens et les Bohémiens qui étaient arbitrairement détenus à Topova, et il a donné ordre pour que l'Albanais qui se trouvait en danger fusse immédiatement soigné par un chirurgien.

Une autre bande composée de quinze Circassiens s'est rendu dans la ferme de Hassif Pacha au village de Radani en plein jour, et après y avoir arrêté le nommé Siros, Chrétien, ils lui ont tranché la tête.

Il y a, en conséquence de tous ces méfaits, une grande panique, et malgré que le Mudir a demandé à plusieures reprises au Gouverneur-Général de Salonique de prendre des mesures énergiques pour la répression de tous ces désordres, rien n'a été fait ni ordonné jusqu'à ce jour, et en conséquence si le Gouvernement néglige d'y porter une prompte et efficace répression, les désordres augmenteront avec grand préjudice pour la tranquillité publique.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) J. BIZZO.

No. 220.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 23. Political.)

Salonica, March 29, 1877.

My Lord,

ON the 26th instant, at 7 A.M., I sent a cyphered telegram to your Lordship, reporting that the provincial authorities had received orders from the Porte to call out with all possible dispatch the "Mustahfis" troops of the 3rd Army Corps at Monastir, which telegram I repeated on the 27th instant, in accordance with your Lordship's telegraphic order thus worded:—

"*Monday, March* 26.

"Repeat your telegram of the 26th instant."

I now have the honour to submit herewith, inclosed for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report of the 27th instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople upon the subject referred to in the above telegram.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, March 27, 1877.

Sir,

AS I telegraphied to you in cypher yesterday at 7 A.M., the Governor-General of Salonica received a telegraphic order from the Serraskier on the evening of the 25th instant to call out with all possible dispatch the "Mustahfis" battalions included in the territorial jurisdiction of the 3rd "Ordon" Army Corps, the head-quarters of which are at Monastir.

The order directs that 200 men are to be enrolled and armed in each company of every battalion. The 3rd Ordon is supposed to have twenty-four battalions of Mustahfiz, not including those of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as each battalion is composed of eight "buluks" or companies, the present call will bring under arms a force of 38,400 men. These troops will be stationed at present in separate battalions in their several "merkez" or districts of enrolment. They will not be supplied with uniforms, but a skull cap ("fez"), a pair of sandals ("tcharihs"), and a rifle will be served out to each man. There are rifles in the several depôts for 26,000 men only, and the Acting Commander-in-chief at Monastir has applied to the War Office for a further supply, as many as 60,000, I am told.

This measure of enrolling and arming of the "Mustahfiz" will increase the uneasiness of the Christian inhabitants, for it is very much feared that these troops will not be properly officered and disciplined; and if they are to be quartered, as I believe they will be, in the towns and villages of the several "merkez" of enrolment, they may become a source of danger to the inhabitants, the Christians in particular.

As it is, the latter have already suffered considerably from the calling out of the Redifs and the constant movement of troops, to say nothing of the evils occasioned by the requisitions and collection of supplies and war contributions for the armies recently operating against Montenegro and Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 221.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 24. Political. Confidential.)

Salonica, March 30, 1877.

My Lord,

THE inclosed is a copy of a Confidential Report from the Political Agent of this vilayet, to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon the action of the Hellenic and Sclavonic propagandas in the Greek provinces of Turkey, their aims and the results they have so far attained.

It has been confidentially communicated to me, with the request that it may not be published in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Report addressed to Safvet Pasha.

(Confidentielle.)

Salonique, le 5 *Mars*, 1877.

Monseigneur,

DANS un précédent rapport j'ai eu l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence, que le Panslavisme et le Panhellénisme étaient depuis longtemps aux prises dans ce vilayet, chacun faisait de son mieux pour imposer sa nationalité dans la Macédoine.

Le but que les Bulgares se proposaient par la Sclavisation de cette province était d'avancer jusqu'à la mer, et d'obtenir ainsi un port aussi important que celui de Salonique dans la Méditerranée.

Quant aux Hellènes, mettant en avant des droits de priorité qui datent d'Alexandre le Grand, ils désirent comprendre cette province dans le futur Royaume de leurs rêves.

Soit que le Panslavisme ayant concentré son action dans la Bulgarie proprement dite, ait été faible dans ce vilayet, soit que le Hellénisme, aidé par le nombre supérieur des Grecs dans cette province, il y ait trouvé le champ plus facile, il est notoire que dans ces dernières années, il a eu incontestablement le dessus, et il a réussi à remporter la victoire sur son antagoniste.

Les dernières élections des Députés pour l'Assemblée Ottomane ont présentés des arguments irréfutables à ce sujet. En effet, sur 84 électeurs dont chacun devait élire, 3 Musulmans et 3 non-Musulmans, soit sur 252 votes non-Musulmans, les Bulgares n'en ont obtenus que 7!

J'aurai l'honneur de développer, dans ce rapport à votre Excellence, le travail passé de l'Hellénisme, ses ramifications et ses démarches actuelles, ainsi que l'esprit du pays à ce sujet.

Après les événements de Crète, la Grèce a complètement changé de tactique à l'égard des Provinces Ottomanes qu'elle convoitait. Elle a voulu imposer son influence politique par les moyens pacifiques, moyens aussi lents que surs, et qui n'auraient pu causer des sujets de plaintes officielles de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman vis-à-vis du Royaume de Grèce.

C'est vers cette époque qu'il s'est fondé à Athènes le Syllogos pour la propagation des lettres Grecques. Cette réunion, qui compte parmi ses membres les sommités savantes de Grèce, a pour but le surveillance des lettres Grecques en Grèce, et surtout en Turquie, ainsi que la création de Syllogos, des succurales du Comité Central qui, par la fondation d'écoles et de centres d'instruction dans les provinces convoitées, doivent faire une guerre acharnée au Panslavisme, et propager le plus possible les idées et l'influence Helléniques.

Des trois provinces, soit l'Épire, la Thessalie, et la Macédoine, c'est cette dernière qui a été l'objet du travail le plus assidus: car les deux autres provinces, ne contenant point des Bulgares, ne présentaient pas autant de nécessité de propagande.

Le vilayet de Salonique possède quatres Syllogos: un à Salonique; un à Serres; un à Stroumnidja; et un à Vodina. Tous les quatres ont pour Présidents des médecins Hellens.

Ces Syllogos sont entretenus par les membres qui les composent, et par de subsides du Syllogo d'Athènes; celui de Serres reçoit de Grèce 80 livres Turques par an; et tous ensemble reçoivent grande quantité des livres Grecs pour distribuer aux écoles: ces livres bien inoffensifs comme contenu, contribuent au but général.

Les Syllogos fondent et surveillent les écoles, fournissent des professeurs, inspirent le pays d'idées Helléniques et acquièrent une influence morale, dont ils pouvent se servir, le cas échéant, dans un but politique. C'est une conquête morale et sociale, avant-coureur de la conquête politique et territoriale projetée.

Que votre Excellence me permette de lui rappeler une autre considération se rattachant au même sujet.

La Russie qui, avant de travailler à l'autonomie politique de la Bulgarie, a obtenu son autonomie politique (ecclésiastique?) par la création de l'Exarchat, fesait à arriver à un arrangement avec l'Église Grecque afin d'établir les frontières ecclésiastiques [de cet Exarchat et partant, la délimitation politique de la Bulgarie. Après des efforts repétés, elle était parvenue, au commencement de l'année 1876, et avant la révolte en Bulgarie, à s'entendre définitivement sur ce sujet avec l'Église Grecque.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas, en effet, qu'avant la chute de Mahmoud Pacha, et pendant que feu Rachid Pacha était Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, le Général Ignatiew s'est entendu d'un côté avec M. Commoundouros et de l'autre avec le Patriarch Œcuménique pour la solution de la question ecclésiastique Bulgare, et qu'on était tombé d'accord à ce que l'Exarchat abandonne aux Grecs tout le Vilayet de Salonique ecclésiastiquement à condition que de l'autre côté les Grecs se désistassent de toute prétention phylétique sur le littoral Européen de la Mer Noire, habité presque en totalité par des Grecs. Cet arrangement faisait de la Mer Noire un lac Russe.

Quoique par l'éclat prématuré de la révolte en Bulgarie, et par la chute de Mahmoud Pacha, ce plan n'ait pas reçu d'exécution, il a suffi néanmoins pour ralentir l'action de Panslavisme dans la Macédoine.

Moyenant donc cette entente et par le reseau de la propagande intellectuelle dans cette province les Grecs ont acquis une grande suprématie dans le vilayet.

L'influence morale, et incontestable, de la Grèce une fois établie, je me permettrai de rapprocher le passé avec les dispositions actuelles de la Grèce à l'égard de ce pays.

Dans la crise que l'Orient traverse en ce moment, le rôle expectatif de la Grèce ne provient certes pas d'un sentiment de sympathie vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Ottoman, mais bien par calcul, ou les intérêts connexes des deux pays, pour ne pas créer des embarras à la Turquie et faire ainsi les affaires du Panslavisme. La léçon de Crète lui ayant eu outre profité, la Grèce veut vivre en ce moment en bonne harmonie avec la Sublime Porte, afin que si la paix survient, elle puisse réclamer ultérieurement le prix de sa tranquillité, ou bien si la guerre éclate, conclure une marché avec celui des deux combattants qui lui offrirait le plus d'avantage.

Effectivement on doit avouer que les organes officiels de la Grèce dans ce vilayet tiennent une langage et une politique des plus conciliants; et certes les autorités du vilayet ne sauraient assez les encourager dans cette manière de voir et de faire.

Malheureusement, ainsi qu'il arrive dans tous les pays où tout le monde veut prendre part à la politique, il existe en Grèce des comités qui, pénétrés toujours de la grande idée, croient le moment propice pour créer des embarras au Gouvernement Ottoman, voir même provoquer une révolte dans les Provinces convoitées. Des Comités, donc, qui travaillent contrairement à l'esprit et à la volonté du Gouvernement Hellénique, ont envoyés dernièrement dans ce pays du côté de Cassandro, des émissaires pour sonder et préparer les esprits à un mouvement insurrectionnel; mais je puis affirmer de la manière la plus positive que le pays n'est point disposé à prêter l'oreille à ces instigations, car la majorité des Grecs de Salonique ont assez de bon sens pour rester indifférends à toute tentative de ce genre. Du reste, ils sont présidés par l'Evêque Joakim, un prélat digne de sa haute position, et de la confiance du Gouvernement Impérial.

Ces mêmes comités présidés à Athènes par des Leonidas Bulgaris, ont poussés un ancien chef de brigands, le fameux Carabatac, à reformer sa bande et, en s'unissant à Pappa Panayotti, à former autour du Mont Olympe une espèce de guerilla de voleur, dont le mot d'ordre serait l'extermination de plus de Turcs possible; mais les autorités du vilayet ont déjà pris les mesures nécessaires pour leur extermination.

Quoique les Chrétiens, ainsi que je viens de le dire, ne sonient point disposés à prêter l'oreille à des instigations de révolte, il faudrait néanmoins leur enlever tout sujet de plainte, en réformant notre état administratif: car l'attention des autorités trop attirée par les événements de la dernière guerre s'est ralentie en ce qui concerne le bien-être des populations et la bonne administration de la justice.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé)

No. 222.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 26. Political.)
Salonica, March 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, relative to the affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 30, 1877.

I HAVE just received a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, in which he states, in connection with your telegraphic order to investigate and report cases of disturbance or outrage in his district, that "there is not the slightest symptom so far of any disturbing element throughout the country, and perfect quiet prevails everywhere. Even brigandage is quiescent, and the bands abroad for the present are totally inactive."

On the other hand, my Greek colleague here, in his note to me of the 29th instant, states as follows:—

"Rien de pressant de Catterina. Mais dans une lettre en date d'hier, on m'écrit ce que suit. La semaine passée j'ai parcouru quelques villages du Caza Petra, partout j'ai rencontré des soldats s'amusant et dansant dans les maisons des villages; et les habitants pleurant leurs misères. Mais ce qui m'a frappé d'avantage c'est que quelques uns des habitants commencent à émigrer. Les moins du Couvent de Petra ont adressé à l'Evêque de Petra une plainte contre le Yuz-bashi Yaver-Agha qui, ayant trouvé les portes du Couvent fermées, a essayé d'y pénétrer en escaladant les murs, et a injurié et menacé le prêtre Jonas, qui est resté seul dans le Couvent pour le service de l'église."

As Petra is in Thessaly, within Mr. Vice-Consul Suter's district, I shall call his attention to the above statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 223.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 27. Political.)
Salonica, March 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith extract from a letter, marked Confidential, which I have received from Mr Vice-Consul Blakeney, furnishing some further information upon the alleged plan to get up an insurrectionary movement in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Prevesa, March* 24, 1877.

ON the 21st instant I telegraphed to you in cypher as follows:—

"Real Chiefs seem to be at Corfu. Aravandinos, Krustali, and Kapcas seem the leaders at Janina. Chiefs of Lacca agree to carry ammunition from the coast to their hills."

The above is the substance of M. Kypriotis' letter marked Confidential. M. Kypriotis, however, suspects that the three above-named individuals are not the real Chiefs, and that the principal leaders must either be at Corfu, where a revolutionary society appears to exist, or that they are actually at Janina, and don't wish to expose themselves, fearing that their plot might prove unsuccessful.

From the description given by M. Kypriotis of the three leaders, and from the indirect, and sometimes direct, protection afforded to them by the Russian Consulate at Janina, I come to the conclusion that the whole affair is a Russian and not a Greek intrigue, and if jealousy really exists between the Greeks and Slavs I am inclined to believe that the affair will fall through.

As to the Chiefs of Lacca, M. Kypriotis says they are divided into two parties; one is composed of "Capitanei," who have earned for themselves that title through some daring act of brigandage, or has been bestowed upon them for services rendered to the Turks. Among these are to be found also cavasses of Consulates, but their weight in political matters is but slight. The other party is composed of men closely related to the

old "Capitanei," who fought at Súlli in the year 1821. They are men endowed with good sense, are very courageous, and naturally not so easy to get themselves involved in rash and doubtful attempts at insurrection.

Three of these, two brothers named Izimaye, and another, Mitsios Zikothimios, attended the meeting (referred to in a previous letter), but consented only to transport ammunition from the coast to their mountains, and this is all the information I can supply for the present respecting the plan to revolt Epirus.

No. 224.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 28. Political.)

Salonica, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch of this date to Mr. Jocelyn, reporting a new regulation made by the Porte relative to the appointments of Kaimakams and other provincial officials.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, April 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that a circular instruction has been received by the Pasha of Salonica from the Porte, stating that in future the appointments of Kaimakams, Mudirs, chiefs of departments, and other subordinate officials in the provinces, will be made directly by the Porte, and that such appointments will be conferred on candidates who shall have satisfactorily passed their examination before the Extraordinary Commission which has been recently instituted at the Porte for the selection of eligible candidates for the civil service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 225.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 29. Political.)

Salonica, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, an extract of a letter dated Prevesa, March 24, 1877, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, giving an account of the conversion of a Christian girl to Mahommedanism, who had eloped with a Redif at Prevesa.

I have written to Mr. Blakeney, approving of his conduct in this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.

Prevesa, March 24, 1877.

(Extract.)

YESTERDAY morning it was discovered that a Christian girl had eloped with a Redif, and that when brought before the Mutessarif she declared that she wished to embrace Mahommedanism.

When her parents presented themselves, she said she did not know them, and the Bishop having spoken to her, and told her to go with him to the "Metropolis," she positively refused.

All this took place yesterday morning, and late in the afternoon the Bishop sent me his Secretary (Drakos), to ask whether I could intercede with the Mutessarif, so that the girl might be sent to the Metropolis.

To this I consented, but not before I had explained to the Drakos that I could only do so in a friendly way, and that my visit to the Mutessarif would be quite a friendly one. Consequently, early this morning, I called on the Mutessarif at his private residence, and spoke to him on the subject.

First of all I told him the deep impression the conduct of the girl had produced on the minds of Christians, and I could not but allude to the lamentable results of a similar case at Salonica. I then asked him whether he would send the girl to the Metropolis, but he replied that, willing as he was to give her up and thus get over an affair which he termed "Bela," he felt he could not possibly do so, as the girl yesterday had expressed very plainly that she would not go, and as to his compelling her by force, or, as a priest had suggested to him yesterday, to tell the girl that she would be removed to some Turkish house, but send her instead to the Metropolis, he could not do this either, as he feared that when the girl discovered that she had been deceived, a scene would perhaps take place the result of which might complicate matters.

Finding that he would not be persuaded to send the girl to the Metropolis, and not wishing myself to incur any responsibility, I did not press the point, but suggested instead, not to hurry matters, and to give the girl time to think well before anything definite should be done (and this I said because last night I was informed that he intended to have the girl brought to the Hukimet (Court) to-day, and there declare publicly that she had decided to embrace Mahommedanism), my object, therefore, was to try and gain time.

I also added that every facility should be afforded to some priest to see her and to talk to her.

To this the Mutessarif consented, and promised me that time would be allowed the girl until Monday. He also told me that he had communicated with the Vali on the subject, and consequently he would be guided by the instructions sent him from Janina. The girl for the present, he told me, was in prison inside the citadel. I then came away.

I must mention, however, that, in compliance with the Bishop's wish, I did not allude to the Drako's visit when talking to the Mutessarif.

The part I was forced upon to take in the matter was not much to my liking, and certainly not of my seeking, and I should have wished myself out of it altogether, but I felt it was a Christians' duty to put my shoulder to the wheel, which I did, as I doubt not you will perceive, in as quiet and friendly a way as possible, and I trust that my behaviour throughout will meet with your approval.

P.S.—I had scarcely finished my letter when I was informed that the Mutessarif had invited all the native officials as well as the bishop to attend at the Hukimet, and shortly after the girl was brought there, but, as I hear, was kept in a separate room, and then it was declared by the Mutessarif, or by somebody else, that she had decided to embrace Mahommedanism.

The Bishop, I am told, spoke to the girl again, but all to no purpose, and then he begged the Mutessarif to give her time till Monday, but the reply he got was, "Olmaz," it cannot be.

The Bishop, accompanied by all the Christians, then left, and when the girl, dressed up in her new Turkish costume, left the Hukimet, the Christians who had assembled outside began to hoot her. Thus ended an affair which I feared was likely to lead to something serious.

I abstain from pronouncing either for or against the Mutessarif's conduct throughout this affair, and I will merely state what I fear seems but too true. That all he told me in the morning was false, that he never intended to give the girl time till Monday, as he had promised to me. That the girl was not in prison yesterday as he said, but in a harem inside the citadel.

That no opportunity, as far as I can find out, had been given to a priest to visit her since my visit; and lastly, by deciding the question so abruptly, the chances of talking her over again were reduced to their minimum, which made the affair more galling still to the Christians.

No. 226.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 14, 1877, 9·15 P.M.

TURKISH Circular communicated here day before yesterday. M. Melegari replied that he regretted the decision taken, and that the Porte had not better appreciated the efforts of the Powers to save Turkey from impending peril.

Italian Consul at Bucharest telegraphs that Turkish army appears to menace Kalafat.

No. 227.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 163.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 11, 1877.

THE political situation here is the same as when I had last the honour to address to your Lordship my despatch No. 159 of the 9th instant.

It is one of expectancy, I will not say hopeless expectancy, but one of hoping against hope.

The last chance of a pacific arrangement appears to lie in the hope of the Porte consenting to send a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh, but, by the last account received from Constantinople, the pretensions of the Porte for reciprocity render this last chance of conciliation very doubtful.

The present state of affairs is very correctly given in the annexed leading article from the "Agence Russe" of yesterday, which emanates from an official source.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of April 10, 1877.

St. Pétersbourg, Mardi soir, $\frac{29 \text{ Mars}}{10 \text{ Avril}}$ 1877.

La Situation.—Le moment est décisif. Après avoir fatigué l'opinion par sa durée et les longues, pénibles négociations auxquelles elle a donné lieu, la crise Orientale en est arrivée à ce point extrême où elle doit définitivement et promptement aboutir soit à la paix, soit à la guerre.

Il n'y a plus ni place, ni temps pour de nouvelles tentatives d'atermoiements et d'échappatoires. La Sublime Porte ne l'ignore pas. Les conseils les plus pressants de déférer incontinent aux derniers vœux de l'Europe réunie, aussi pleins de déférence dans leur forme que de modération dans leur contenu, ne lui auront pas manqué jusqu'à la dernière heure.

Mais nous sommes bien près de cette heure solennelle et un parti résolu doit être pris à Constantinople où l'on ne saurait plus se faire illusion sur son importance et sa gravité. Jusqu'à cette toute dernière heure, néanmoins, l'espoir d'une solution pacifique, —si mince qu'il puisse être,—est encore permis, et ceux qui le conservent encore ne seront pas des moins résolus au moment,—qui approche,—où des paroles il faudra passer à l'action.

En attendant, dans l'intérêt du public, auquel, dans des moments de crise aiguë comme celui où nous nous trouvons, les nouvelles inexactes et contradictoires sont particulièrement nuisibles, nous avons tenu à bien préciser la situation du jour dans le télégramme suivant transmis tantôt à nos abonnés :—

"Jusqu'au moment où nous écrivons, aucune réponse de la Porte au Protocole n'est encore arrivée à St. Pétersbourg.

"Le Cabinet Impérial a fixé la date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Avril pour la décision de l'envoi par la Porte d'un Ambassadeur Extraordinaire.

"L'envoi de cet Ambassadeur, s'il a lieu, ne devra pas encore être escompté d'avance dans un sens ou dans l'autre, tout dépendant, bien entendu, de ce que cet Ambassadeur ou Envoyé apportera.

"En tout état de cause, la Russie étant allée jusqu'à la limite extrême des concessions, ne reculera plus d'un pas."

No. 228.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 167.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 11, 1877.

IN reply to my inquiry this morning, M. de Giers informed me that the intelligence received from Constantinople was very unsatisfactory.

The Turkish Chamber had passed a resolution by a large majority strongly deprecating any cession of territory to Montenegro.

It was also reported from a good authority, but not officially, that the Porte had decided not to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh, and, further, that the Porte was about to address a Circular to the Powers, in reply to the Protocol, declaring that it could not admit the right of foreign Powers to interfere in the internal affairs of Turkey.

On leaving M. de Giers, I met Prince Gortchakow, who confirmed this intelligence, saying that the Porte had rejected everything—Protocol, Declaration, and terms of peace with Montenegro—and that, consequently, there was no motive for the presence of a Special Envoy at St. Petersburgh.

From a few words which fell from Prince Gortchakow, I gained an impression that Russia, before taking any precipitate measure, or resorting to isolated action, will make a further appeal to Europe, and will inquire what course the Powers purpose taking on receiving, according to the Russian view, this second rebuff from the Porte.

I can only report this as an impression suggested by a vague and indistinct phrase used by his Highness, but not as any official expression of his intention.

The hesitation of the Porte to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh has given the more displeasure here, as Prince Gortchakow had made a further concession in consenting to receive one previously to the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 229.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, April* 14, 1877.

HERR VON BÜLOW told me to-day that Count Bismarck had instructed Count Münster to consult your Lordship as to the best means of protecting German subjects in Turkey in the event of war.

Prince Bismarck does not wish to send more German ships at present to the Mediterranean, so as not to complicate matters while there is still a hope of maintaining peace, but he would be very glad if Her Majesty's Government would consent to some arrangement for the mutual protection of German and English subjects if possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 230.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 144.)

My Lord, *Berlin, April* 14, 1877.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph that the German Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had been instructed to act in concert with, and support the advice of, his colleagues, and that those instructions had been renewed a few days since.

Meanwhile, Turkhan Bey, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, has communicated the Circular of the Porte, in answer to the Protocol of the Powers, to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, and his Excellency, in reply, has expressed the great regret which will be felt by the Emperor's Government at the view taken by the Porte of the friendly advice of the European Powers to maintain peace and improve the condition of the Christian population in Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 231.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

Tiflis, April 13, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ONE battalion of the 28th division arrived yesterday. Another battalion gone to Ozurget. Russians will not, I think, besiege Kars, but will attempt a *coup de main*. Turks understanding that, watch. Defiles east of Batum from Akhalzik should be well fortified, as artillery can pass there.

No. 232.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

St. Petersburgh, April 15, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL language here gives no hope of avoiding war. Manifesto imminent. Large amount of gold sent yesterday to army. General Ignatiew accompanies Emperor to Kischeneff. Emperor leaves on Thursday; will probably return by Moscow first week in May. Prince Gortchakow remains here.

No. 233.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

Pera, April 15, 1877, 11·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HOBART PASHA, who is now virtually in command of the Ottoman navy, has dispatched two gun-boats, two monitors, and two ironclad corvettes to cruise off the Sulina mouth of the Danube, and proceeds by Sultan's orders on Tuesday next to inspect defences of that river. He will be subsequently sent with all dispatch to Crete to insure the necessary precautions being observed to prevent the importation of contraband of war from the Greek ports to that island, where there are apprehensions of a rising when war is declared.

No. 234.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

Pera, April 16, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Imperial yacht has arrived here from Nicholaieff to be at the disposal of the Embassy when it is withdrawn.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he is still without instructions as to his departure, although he has been directed to warn the Consuls to be ready to leave at a short notice.

No. 235.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

St. Petersburgh, April 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

EMPEROR has invited Austrian and German military agents to accompany him to review the army at Kischeneff; French Military Attaché has been there for some months by invitation of Grand Duke Nicholas.

No invitation has been sent to Colonel Wellesley to accompany Emperor, consequently he is the only Military Attaché omitted.

If omission is accidental, it might be rectified through Count Schouvaloff.

No. 236.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16, 4·15 P.M.)

Bucharest, April 16, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIAN troops to occupy in force Kalafat and a position to the south, covering Bucharest. Movement begins to-day. Proclamation to be issued immediately by Prince Charles, defining his policy and the attitude of Roumania as regards Russian troops.

No. 237.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16, 4·2 P.M.)

Tehran, April 11, 1877, 5·53 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Minister has communicated to the Persian Government a Proclamation, of which I forward a translation by post, issued by General Lomakin to the Zemoot Turcoman chiefs, making a requisition for transport camels and (?) notifying that he is proceeding to occupy Kizl Ervad, where he will construct a fort and place a permanent garrison.

Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 238.

The Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff.

Foreign Office, April 16, 1877.

Dear Count Schouvaloff,

I HAVE received from St. Petersburgh the accompanying copy of the Protocol of March 31, as published in the special bulletin of the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," with the declaration made by your Excellency; and I think it right to call your attention to the fact that the *procès-verbal*, with my Declaration and that of the Italian Ambassador, was not published with the two other documents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 239.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 150.)

Foreign Office, April 16, 1877.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador has placed in my hands a Memorandum recalling my attention to his having on previous occasions, in the course of conversation, pointed out the inconveniences and dangers which might arise from the abolition of certain local privileges and immunities now enjoyed by various provinces of the Turkish Empire, should such a step be contemplated, in consequence of the promulgation of the new Ottoman Constitution.

Information, it appears, had reached the Italian Government which warranted the apprehension that the excitement prevailing in Crete and in the Lebanon might assume grave and deplorable proportions, and that it would be highly imprudent to extend to those Provinces a uniform system opposed by the populations who are deeply attached to their local organizations.

Similar agitation, and from the same cause, it is represented, exists in Albania, and the Italian Consul at Scutari had reported that both Turks and Christians equally disapprove the uniformity of system desired by the authorities, and that the attitude of provocation of the latter was of a nature to compromise the tranquillity of the province.

This repugnance, which the sweeping application of the new Ottoman Constitution meets with in the provinces enjoying certain old-established privileges, had, General Menabrea represented, been unhappily verified by the revolt of the Mirdites, whose example might possibly be followed by the Pulates. (?)

In this state of things, and seeing that these exceptional organizations, thus menaced,

were placed, especially as regards Crete and the Lebanon, under the guarantee of diplomatic agreements, General Menabrea had, as his Excellency explained, thought it his duty to communicate to me the purport of the alarming intelligence which had reached him.

I thanked his Excellency for the information he had given me; and in reply to his request to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon this subject, I have assured his Excellency that the matter shall receive their attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 240.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 16, 1877.*

AUSTRIAN and French Consuls have communicated to me letter of 14th received by them this morning from Bib Doda.

He states that the Mirdite resistance has collapsed, and that he and his family and his adherents place themselves under the protection of the Governments of Austria and France, and pray that their influence may be used to obtain cessation of hostilities.

My colleagues have conveyed this information in writing to authorities, and have applied to their Governments for instructions.

I believe Turks will insist on removal of Doda from Albania.

Above telegraphed to Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 241.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 259.) *Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE to express to you my approval of your language to the Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch No. 240, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, relative to the steps taken by the Porte in consequence of a telegram received from Musurus Pasha, stating that I had advised his Excellency to prepare for war.

You will have perceived from my despatches Nos. 195 and 210, Confidential, of the 27th and 29th ultimo, that the statement in question was entirely inaccurate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 242.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 10. Political.) *Canea, Crete, March 31, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a translation of a Petition addressed to the Consuls of the great Powers and of Greece residing at Canea, begging them to forward to their respective Governments a copy of a Protest which was yesterday handed in to the Governor-General, Samih Pasha, who arrived here on the 20th instant. A translation of this Protest follows that of the Petitions addressed to the Consuls, and it is signed by 960 leading Christians of the three Cazas of Selinos, Kissamos, and Cydonia (Canea).

A similar protest is on the point of being presented to the Mutessarif Pashas of Sphakia, Rethymo, Candia, and Lasethi, by the Christians of those districts.

The document is couched in a style such as might rather be expected to be used by a people already in rebellion than by peaceable subjects. Without any preamble, it "denounces the forced and illegal election of Cretan Deputies for the Parliament of Constantinople," and declares that Crete is not only determined to maintain intact the privileges acquired after the bloody revolution of 1866, but demands, in addition, that the changes in the organic law proposed last year by the Christian Deputies of the Assembly be carried out. They further protest that they do not intend to submit to the dispositions

of the new constitutional Charter which concerns not the privileged provinces of the Empire; and they point out that out of fifty-eight Christian electors, but six voted for the two Deputies of the new Parliament; and they conclude by expressing a hope that the Christian Deputy thus illegally chosen will decline the mission assigned to him.

The protest has been drawn up for the last ten days, and has been circulating in the country for the purpose of obtaining the necessary signatures. Since it was written, Samih Pasha has caused the Firman confiding to him the Government of Crete to be publicly read, in which His Majesty the Sultan disclaims any intention of withdrawing the organic Law granted in 1867; and his Excellency in his speech added that his Sovereign had bid him respect that Charter. There is, therefore, an evident contradiction between the language of the protest and the declared intentions of the Government; but the Cretans, who, in common with their fellow-subjects, put little faith in Imperial promises, cannot see why they should be called upon to send Deputies to a Parliament whose business it will be to create laws from the operation of which they, with their separate political organization, are excluded; and they therefore consider they are justified in refusing to have anything to do with the new Parliament.

The language of the Protest well reflects the heated temper of the Cretan Christians; and that an Address thus worded should have been accepted without comment by the Governor-General, shows how timid the authorities have become in their relations to their Cretan subjects. This casting-away of the traditional respect habitually observed by an Oriental people to its rulers, argues ill for the continued preservation of order; for though it is not likely that the Cretans will venture to provoke a conflict with the Government, so long as the latter remains at peace with its powerful neighbour, it will be no easy task for them to carry on the ordinary business of Government with combined efficiency and prudence.

I made the observation to your Lordship, in a previous despatch, that the native chiefs had really more authority in the country than the Government itself, and an instance of the truth of this statement has just occurred, which I take the liberty of relating.

A case of robbery with violence having been committed in the district of Apokorona, I sent word to a Chief possessed of extensive influence in that and the neighbouring district of Sphakia that he ought to exert his influence to repress disorders of the kind, which produced an unfavourable effect abroad. He sent to inform me a few days afterwards that it was a band of five lawless freebooters who had committed that and similar misdeeds, and that he had expelled them from that part of the country, after having forced them to restore every article they had plundered.

I have since learned that this is strictly true, the man robbed having to his surprise received every article back, even to his watch. The local Governor would certainly have been powerless to exert a similar act of authority if the inhabitants had wished to harbour the culprits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 242.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

A MM. les Consuls des Grandes Puissances Chrétiennes et de Grèce.

MM. les Consuls,

LES Puissances Chrétiennes que vous représentez si dignement dans ce pays n'ignorent pas que le 23 Décembre (v.s.) le Gouvernement Ottoman a promulgué une Charte Constitutionnelle pour ses provinces non-privilégiées. Contre toute attente, les soussignés, habitants Chrétiens de la Crète, ont vu que le Gouvernement Général avait exigé des Conseils Administratifs de l'île, l'élection de deux députés dont l'un Musulman et l'autre Chrétien.

Cette prétention était à peine parvenue à la connaissance du pays, que toute la population Chrétienne et les membres des Conseils Administratifs, s'inspirant des vœux de l'Assemblée Générale, s'opposaient à une mesure tendant à enlever aux Chrétiens, par une manœuvre, des droits consacrés par le Statut Organique et des priviléges arrachés par une lutte des plus sanglantes.

En attendant avec les moyens dont elles disposent, les autorités locales sont parvenus à entraîner six Conseillers sans conscience parmi 58 électeurs Chrétiens. Et c'est par ces six individus qu'on prétend faire élire et envoyer à Constantinople le Sieur Étienne

Nicolaïdes pour y représenter la population Chrétienne de l'île qui forme les trois-quarts de ses habitants! Les Chrétiens de la Crète ayant protesté contre cette décision, les soussignés vous prient, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien transmettre à votre honorable Gouvernement la copie ci-jointe de la protestation qui vient d'être remise à son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général.

Les soussignés se flattent d'espérer que les droits et franchises des Chrétiens de l'île seront efficacement soutenues par votre respectable Gouvernement.

(Les Délégués du peuple Chrétien de la Crète.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 242.

Protest.

A son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général de l'Ile de Crète,

Excellence,

LE peuple Chrétien dénonce l'élection forcée et illégale de députés Crétois pour le Parlement de Constantinople, attendu que cette île fait partie des provinces privilégiées en vertu de Firmans Impériaux; qu'elle possède son Statut Organique octroyé à la suite de la sanglante révolution de 1866, et que la Constitution même de l'Empire reconnaît les droits des provinces privilégiées.

La Crète veut maintenir intactes ses lois organiques qui consacrent l'emploi dans l'Administration et les Tribunaux de la langue Grecque comme étant aussi la langue des Musulmans, et parceque ces lois prescrivent le système électif pour les Conseils et Tribunaux et n'admettent la moindre imposition avant qu'elle ne soit approuvée par l'Assemblée Générale.

La Crète demande les modifications proposées par ses délégués Chrétiens et ne veut point être représentée dans le Parlement de Constantinople, parcequ'elle a ses propres députés pour l'Assemblée Générale; elle n'entend pas se soumettre aux dispositions de la Charte Constitutionnelle, car cette Charte ne concerne que les autres provinces de l'Empire, et est en opposition avec plusieurs des droits acquis de l'île.

Pour toutes ces raisons nous protestons contre l'élection forcée et illégale ordonnée par le Gouvernement qui, de 58 électeurs Chrétiens, n'est parvenue à gagner que les suffrages de six individus, n'ayant aucune conscience ni de leur mission ni de la responsabilité qu'ils assument devant la détermination unanime du peuple, et ne formant qu'une insignifiante minorité. Nous repoussons d'avance tout acte émanant du soi-disant Député Chrétien, qui ne saurait représenter au Parlement de Constantinople que les six membres de Conseils ses commettants. Nous espérons d'ailleurs que ce Député si illégalement élu déclinera la mission qu'on lui a assignée.

De votre Excellence, &c.

La Canée, Mars 1877.

No. 243.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, April 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch, No. 24 of April 5, which I have just addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, regarding the nomination of a proper Governor-General for Bosnia, instead of the incompetent and insignificant person who now fills this post. It is of such immense importance at the present moment that, if other means fail, I would humbly suggest the expediency of a representation being made on this subject to the Sultan himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Consul Holmes to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Bosna-Serai, April 5,* 1877.

I FEEL it my duty to call your particular attention to a fact which I have often before stated, but which, more than ever at the present moment, urgently demands the consideration of the Porte. It is, that while this vilayet requires the very best Governor the Turkish Government could select, it has, during these peculiarly difficult times, selected men of neither high standing, experience, nor capacity. The late Governor, Ibrahim Pasha, was almost unknown, and totally without experience or ability.

The present Governor, Nasif Pasha, had only previously reached the grade of Mutessarif. He was in this rank at Cypress, and then at Jerusalem, at one of which places he underwent a trial for peculation. He is a man of no note or influence, and, without entering here into the details of his character, I do not hesitate to say that he is not fit to govern this province under the circumstances of the moment.

The Vali of Bosnia should be a person of energy, of high family, and reputation, enjoying a marked influence at Constantinople, in order that he may be free, if possible, from anxiety regarding the intrigues which may be directed against him, and be able to reorganize this vilayet without fear of hostile factions. He should hold civil and military command. He should be free from fanaticism, honest, firm, and conciliatory; and my experience would suggest one of the following:—1st, Reouf Pasha; 2nd, Omer Fevzi Pasha; 3rd, Samih Pasha; and 4th, Mustafa Assim Pasha.

It is also to be desired that the Augean administrative stables here should be swept clean.

The Defterdar, Hadgi Rashid Effendi, is clever but deceitful, and anxious to appear all that is desirable to the Consuls here. I am assured that he is really most fanatical, and before his intimates daily professes his hatred of Christians and Europeans. He declares that the troubles in Bosnia have in no way been brought about by a deplorable Administration, but solely at the instigation of Europe, particularly Russia and Austria.

The Cadi, or Naïb, Omer Fehmi Effendi, is said to be honest, but a most fanatical Ulema, and violently hostile to European ideas.

The Mektoubgi, Enver Effendi, is a man as ignorant as he is fanatical, but is, comparatively, of little importance.

It is not only my own opinion that no amelioration can take place as long as the Government of the country is in such hands, but that of all intelligent people in this country, Mussulmans as well as Christians. A mere change, however, of the persons forming the Administration here will not suffice, unless the Porte gives the new comers the assurance that they will be supported by the Government in their efforts at improvement, with a sincere promise that they will be given ample time to work them out.

The Porte professes itself anxious to prove to Europe that it is in earnest in wishing to carry out reforms; surely then, the least it can do, by way of beginning, is to appoint Governors in whose ability and desire to do well the public may have some confidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 244.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 265.)

Constantinople, April 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatch to me, No. 25 of the 19th ultimo, respecting the robbery of animals by Turkish troops upon Russian territory, I find that I omitted to report to your Lordship at the time that I had brought the substance of the Consul's telegram to the notice of Safvet Pasha, and represented also the importance of appointing a more efficient Governor-General than Ismail Pasha to so important a post as Erzeroum is likely to become in the event of a war breaking out with Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 245.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 269.)
Constantinople, April 7, 1877.

My Lord,

IMMEDIATELY on receipt yesterday of your Lordship's second telegram directing me to communicate the Protocol and Declaration to Safvet Pasha, I gave to his Excellency the copies which I had already read to him on the 5th instant, and which we had carefully compared with the telegram received from Musurus Pasha.

On that occasion I had offered to leave them with him, but he said that unless I had particular instructions to do so he would prefer not having them.

I explained to him, however, yesterday, that I must request him to regard the copies I now gave him as having been communicated officially on the previous occasion, and this his Excellency agreed to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 246.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 272.)
Constantinople, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 27th ultimo, I lost no time in addressing telegraphic instructions to Her Majesty's Consular Officers in Turkey to be especially careful in investigating and reporting on any cases of disturbances or outrages that might come to their knowledge, and I also informed them that they were authorized to charge in their public accounts the expense of visiting any places where such occurrences are reported to have taken place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 247.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 273.)
Constantinople, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch reporting a conversation which he had with the Minister of the Interior, Djevdet Pasha, on the subject of the Gemusch Khavé and other outrages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Memorandum.

J'AI parlé à Djevdet Pacha des excès commis par les Rédifs du côté de Kumuskhané et autres localités avoisinantes.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur avait télégraphié, en date du 23 Mars, aux Valis de Trébizonde et d'Erzéroum pour l'enquérir des faits imputés aux militaires. Le Gouverneur-Général de Trébizonde a répondu par télégraphe que les Chrétiens et les Musulmans indistinctement avaient souffert lors du passage des Rédifs, dont l'un avait été blessé et avait succombé dans l'hôpital.

Une Commission Mixte a été chargée de se rendre sur les lieux pour faire une enquête. Le délégué du Métropolitain, ainsi que l'Alai Bey, Chef de la Police à Erzéroum, forment partie de cette Commission.

J'ai saisi cette occasion pour faire remarquer à Djevdet Pacha que les auteurs de presque tous les méfaits dont on a eu à se plaindre, surtout depuis quelques mois, sont restés impunis. C'est ce qui a encouragé les imitateurs. Il est vrai, ai-je ajouté, que le Gouvernement a fait faire souvent des enquêtes; mais le résultat réel des investigations a

resté presque toujours inconnu. Même, si les autorités sont parvenues quelquefois à rendre des condamnations, l'exécution de ces jugements a été souvent différée, paralysée ou abandonnée.

Djevdet Pacha m'a dit qu'il ne se rappelait pas bien si tous les coupables auxquels je faisais allusion avaient subi la punition qu'ils avaient méritée. Mais que le Gouvernement avait fait de son mieux pour faire infliger à chacun sa punition.

Son Excellence m'a prié de lui fournir la liste des coupables qui auraient pu ainsi échapper aux rigueurs de la loi et qu'elle se chargerait de faire rendre la justice.

Le 2 Avril, 1877.

No. 248.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 274.)
Constantinople, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis on the disorders in Obroukli and other villages in the Caza of Adrianople, which were referred to in the letter of the "Times" Correspondent published on the 16th of March last, and I have represented to Safvet Pasha the necessity of greater vigilance on the part of the local authorities in repressing the acts of tyranny of which Mr. Dupuis speaks in his Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 248.

Report on the Disorders in the Bulgarian Villages of Obroukli, Gulbounar, Souroute, Koumkoui, Dugantcha, and Drenovo, in the Caza of Adrianople.

Obroukli.—A Bulgarian village containing some 203 huts. Rukoglu Gospodini, a tchorbadgi, or one of the principal residents, informed me that about the beginning of February last three Mussulmans of the Turkish neighbouring village of Yeni-Beyley, named Zazali Mustafa, Kara Ismailoglu Ali, and the son of Mollah Osmanoglu, came armed to the village, on their way to Adrianople, to join the army. They remained three or four days, during which time they demanded corn from several of the people without paying for it, and having collected about a cart-load, they forced a Bulgarian peasant to conduct it to their homes in Yeni-Beyley. These three Turks also went to the house of a Bulgarian woman and insisted on being supplied with a measure of corn, and because her husband, Stepan Draghia, was absent, and she refused to comply with their demands, both she and her daughter were struck and slightly wounded with yataghans, the mother on the head, and the daughter on the arm. The Turks then helped themselves to what they wanted and left the village. Five or six days having elapsed, the same men returned from Adrianople (one in military clothing), and stayed one day. They demanded, at first, that the villagers should collect for them ten liras, and afterwards reduced their demand to six liras. The villagers not being able to pay that sum, they led away one Ivan Gelo, a Bulgarian inhabitant of the place, a miller, and took him outside the village. This man, fearing the Turks were going to kill him, called to his friends to intercede with his captors for his life. Three shots were fired by the Turks at his followers, but without killing or hitting anybody. Ivan Gelo was then allowed to go home without having been robbed or stripped of a single article of apparel. After these occurrences, the inhabitants of Obroukli suffered no further molestation from their neighbours in Yeni-Beyley. The inhabitants made no appeal to the collector of war contributions. A tejsteil in the service of the Bedel arriving, inquired of the people where the culprits were, and being told they had left, said he could do nothing for them, but that they must make their complaints to the proper authorities.

Haggi Costa, a leading man of the same village, stated, that about the beginning of February last, Kala Ismailoglu Ali, Zazali Mustafa, and the son of Mollah Osmanoglu, all of Yeni-Beyley, came to his cottage and demanded of his father three liras, which not being forthcoming, Kala Ismailoglu struck him with his yataghan on his shoulder, and carried off a bed-cover; that those three men captured Ivan Gelo and led him outside the

village, who being followed by his friends, the latter were fired at, but without hitting or killing any one. Ivan Gelo was then set free without hurt or injury.

Gelogia Stefan, a Bulgarian, told me that the son of Mollah Osmanoglu Ali also asked him for money, but on his answering that he had none suffered him to go away quietly. Stoganoglu Dino, the Moctar (official of the village), saw the three Turks complained of, but being afraid kept out of the way. He heard of their pilfering, but was himself in no way molested.

Bogdanogla Gospodino told him he had been robbed of his woollen leggings, and forced to give them food and drink, for which he received no payment, and was also robbed of a pistol. This man assured me that no women or girls were in the slightest manner insulted or outraged.

Ivan Celo, the man who was made prisoner, related to me that, going to his shop, he observed a crowd of Bulgarians, and also Kara Ismailoglu Ali, Zaralioglu Yussuf, and another Turk, who approached him, and as they were owing him a grude, asked him for three liras. He replied "I have no money; take my head." They then led him about the village, and made him point out the people who had money, and took him outside the village with his hands tied behind his back.

He was hit with the stocks of their guns, and struck with the backs of their yataghans. Hara Ismailoglu, pointing his gun at him, said "Disgorge your money or I will shoot you." His friends, hearing his cries for help, came out, and entreated the Turks to spare his life. The latter, seeing the crowd that had collected, fired, but did not kill or wound any body. They then let Ivan Gelo go without any ranscur.

Stepanoglu Dragho, the husband of the wounded woman, said that about six weeks since Kara Ismailoglu Ali, Mollah Osmanoglu Ali, Zarali, Mustafa, and another man, all of Yeni-Beyley, went to his house and asked his wife for corn, which she refusing to give, they proceeded to help themselves, and the woman, interfering to prevent them, was struck by Kara Ismailoglu Ali on the head with a yataghan; the same man also wounded his daughter, a girl about fourteen years of age. They stole about half-a-kilo of wheat, which they sent to Yeni-Beyley.

Some ten days later these same men, returning from Andrianople, passed through their village, and demanded 500 piastres of Stoyanoglu Dino, the Moctar. They then found Ivan Gelo, and treated him as already related. Stefanoglu Draghia added that, beyond his wife and daughter, no women were insulted, beaten, or outraged.

Pope Slatan of Obroukli stated that he saw one of the Turks beat Haggi Gelo with a stick and with the stock of his gun on his shoulder. This man also informed me that, no women were outraged by the Turks, or people held before fires to make them reveal their money.

Haggi Celaesko said that about the beginning of February last the above-named Turks came from Yeni-Beyley, and demanded one lira of him, and because he did not comply, they struck him with the backs of their yataghans, and hit his wife with a stick; otherwise no women were insulted or outraged.

The above is the whole of the occurrence between the inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Obroukli and the inhabitants of the Turkish village of Yeni-Beyley.

No prisoners were captured beyond the one man seized as mentioned above, namely, Ivan Gelo, who, according to his own statement, was neither stripped to his shirt or unmercifully beaten.

Yeni-Beyley.—A Turkish village of some forty huts. The Mollah, Omeroglu Ahmet Moctar, told me that about the beginning of February last four men of this village, namely, Kara Ismailoglu Ali, Zarali Mustafa, Mollah Osmanoglu Ali, and Kara Osmanli Hassan, left for Adrianople to join the army. After an absence of some days they came back, remained one night, and proceeded next day to join the 2nd army corps at Kyzanlik.

Although he had heard nothing of the affair at Obroukli, still he could not guarantee the good conduct of these men; that this village was on good terms with the people of Obroukli, with whom they had frequent and constant intercourse. Issar Ibrahimam Tchorbadgi, confirmed the statement of the Moctar.

Kavapli.—A village of 130 huts, inhabited by Bulgarians. Gospodino Petko, the Moctar, informed me that he had nothing to complain of excepting that occasionally Turkish travellers would come to the village and demand to be supplied with food and lodging, and leave again without paying for what they consumed.

Boyoglu Gelo, a Bulgarian, complained to me that on the 1st instant, Kurd Mehemet Aga, a Zaptieh, stationed at Obroukli, forced him to give up 300 piastres in kaimés, and because he refused, beat him and took the money by force.

Drenova.—A Bulgarian village of some ninety huts. The Moctar, Konioglu Stozan,

informed me that for about a month-and-a-half the village is from time to time visited by Turks from Sadakli and Smavli, who demand food for themselves and horses, but never pay for what they consume, and even take from them their woollen leggings. On one occasion they beat and took 100 piastres from Letchéoglu Gelo. The women were in no way interfered with, or even insulted. On another occasion he complained to the authorities against a certain Devedggioglu Hussein and Deli Tchurker of Sadakli, but nothing came of it. This man also told me that some forty Turks on their way through the village to be enrolled for the army put up at a khan, and ordered food to be given them without payment. Pope Vassil, the priest of the village, assured me that no women were insulted by the Turks.

Letchéoglu Gelo, a Bulgarian Raeal, informed me that some time in February last three or four Turks from Smavli, on their way to join the army at Kyzanlik, visited the village, and took from him 14 piastres worth of tobacco, and also beat him, but that no women or girls were ever insulted or molested by them, beyond making use of them as servants and drudges.

Sadakli.—A Turkish village of some eighty huts. Haggi Sale, Ogla Haggi Sale, notables of the place, informed me that since the Bulgarian insurrection last year, when some of their people molested the Christians, no inhabitant of this village ill-treated the Bulgarians of Drenova. The above was confirmed by Hussein Hoggia, Murat Hoggia, and Mussa Oubashi, all leading men of the place. As regards the complaints made against Devedggioglu Hussein and Deli Tchuker, all they knew about them was that these men although well-behaved in their village, they could not answer for their conduct in Christian villages.

Smavli.—A Turkish village containing some forty-six Mussulman and four Christian cottages. Vulcanoglu Stviks, a Bulgarian resident, assured me that the Turks of this village were a very peaceable people, and that he never heard of Devedggioglu Hussein or Deli Tchuker visiting Drenova and committing disorders, although he (Stviks) goes every Sunday to church to that village.

Devantcha.—A Bulgarian village containing about 100 houses. Pope Zahalia informed me that about two months since the place was continually being visited by Turkish travellers from Karabuna and Muenteha, who compelled the Bulgarians to till their lands without paying them, and frequently beating them if they refused, and also demanded food and drink to be brought them, for which they never paid; but as to the women they were not insulted or outraged. Petko Vassil, the Moctar, said that while he and some other Bulgarians were conveying a cart-load of wine to the village of Tekké for sale, they were waylaid by Turks, and seven okes of wine were stolen by one them, named Babajun Ibrahim.

Kemikeuy.—A small Bulgarian village of some thirty hovels. Here the inhabitants complained that about the end of last month the village was visited by some Turks who robbed a man named Gelo of his shoes and some money, and another man, Dinoglu Velko, was beaten and stripped of his sandals and leggings.

One of the inhabitants, Koggia Kitcho, told me that about the middle of February last seven Turks from Karabuna came armed to the village and remained a week, during which time they lived at the expense of the villagers, and behaved in a very disorderly manner. They kept the people in a constant state of alarm and fear by firing off pistols during the night-time. They beat Koggia Kitcho because he refused to give them tobacco, cheese, bread, and coffee.

Benoglu Gelo, the Tchorbagi, said that from this village the seven Turks went to Souroute and Duvantcha. No women were maltreated or insulted by their gang during their visit.

Souroute—A Bulgarian village containing from forty to forty-five houses—was about two months since visited by a gang of thirteen Turks of the villages of Dodukchalu and Sadakli; they beat Stanglu Gotcho, a Bulgarian, and took from him his sandals and woollen leggings, and also five bed-covers. They also struck another man, Stoyanoglu Toné, but did not rob him. No women were outraged or anybody stripped of their clothing. Four Turks of this band went to the house of Petreoglu Kéftché and Patusoglu Stoyan, and demanded food, and took away woollen leggings and bed-coverings. The leader of this band of robbers is Kara Osmanoglu Halil, of Dodukchalu.

Karabunar.—A Turkish village of about 100 dwellings. Ahmet Tchaoush, the Moctar, denied all knowledge of any ill-treatment of the Bulgarians of Kemikeuy by the people of his village. He was lately there himself, but did not hear of any complaints.

Gulbunar.—A Bulgarian village containing fifty to sixty huts. Penoglu Stoyan, the Moctar, stated that about a month since a Turk named Ibrahim, of Karabunar, bringing

with him a woman, came to the village and made a stay of some ten days, during which time the villagers were forced to supply them with food and all they required. The man Ibrahim took from him 175 piastres, and beat another man, named Costa Doitchow. Bulgarian women, according to Stoyan, were neither insulted or outraged, or anybody stripped to their shirts.

During my tour I took the opportunity of visiting Belejek, Teharpasly, Koïyajik Kourtchely, Surenishly, Aladagh, Aikeuy Seymen and Eski-Zaara, at all of which places I made careful inquiries, and I am able to state that nobody has been killed, seriously wounded, or severely beaten; nor has a single woman been outraged, or anybody stripped to his shirt in all the villages I have visited. The Mussulmans have certainly been guilty of numerous petty acts of tyranny and oppression, for which the authorities ought to be more vigilant, and punish the offenders.

I might have stated the result of my inquiries in a few words, but I preferred giving it verbatim, and as related to me by the villagers themselves.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, April 6, 1877.

No. 249.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 276.) *Constantinople, April* 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of two despatches I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert respecting affairs in his district.

Among other matters, Mr. Calvert mentions the release of Tossoun Bey and the other persons tried before the Special Commission for the destruction of Klissoura. Mr. Calvert is, however, mistaken in saying that Achmet Agha, of Tumbrush, was connected with the Klissoura affair; he was present at the destruction of Geronstitza, but never joined the Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey.

Mr. Calvert has also reported to me by telegraph that the two battalions of troops which have been hitherto stationed at Philippopolis have been ordered to Yamboli, from which it may be concluded that any intention on the part of the Government of carrying into execution the capital sentences against Mussulmans has been for the present aban-

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 249.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Jocelyn.

Philippopolis, March 22, 1877.

Sir,

IN connection with the false alarms and general uneasiness reported in my telegrams of the 9th, 13th, and 15th instant, I have to report the arrest at Tatar Bazardjik of an individual alleged to be a revolutionary emissary. The name of this person is Alexander Groueff. He is a brother of a highly respected Bulgarian of Philippopolis, who was unjustly imprisoned last spring for supposed complicity in the Bulgarian rising.

I am not, however, inclined (and I believe the Turkish authorities to be of the same opinion) to attach much importance to this incident. The man is a notorious scamp and drunkard, disowned on that account by his family, and not likely, therefore, to be a dangerous apostle of revolutionary doctrines; while the only compromising documents found in his possession were some numbers of the journal published by the Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee at Bucharest, and a letter from a Bulgarian of Avrat-Ala asking for the journal in question.

Groueff was arrested on Sunday, the 18th instant, and brought here to-day to be tried by the Special Tribunal under Pertew Effendi.

One of the rumours I have mentioned as being circulated for the purpose of fomenting agitation was that certain Bulgarians of Avrat-Ala and Otlouk-Keui had formed a plot to go disguised as Turks and kill some people in a neighbouring Bulgarian village, in order that yet another heinous crime, fit to rekindle the indignation of Europe, might be saddled on the Mussulmans. I learn, however, from the Kaimakam of Bazardjik, who is

here to-day, that he has investigated the matter, and finds the statement to have been a pure fabrication.

Whatever may be the source of all these obvious attempts to excite the fanaticism of the Turks on the one hand, and render unbearable the position of the Bulgarians on the other, it is quite certain that nothing—even to the passage of the Balkans by an invading army—would now induce the Bulgarians to lift a finger for their freedom. The Turkish authorities are well aware how little they have to fear in this respect.

At the same time, the result of the prevailing rumours is apparent in a renewal of threats on the part of the Mussulmans in some of the villages, particularly in the Pomak districts of Mount Rhodofo.

I do not think, nevertheless, that these threats will lead to anything serious, and I have great hopes that public security in this district will be increased by the activity of the officer who has just been appointed to the chief command of the local police. A few months ago Edhem Agha was a simple private in the force. For his zeal in recovering property carried away from Batak and other villages, he was promoted to the rank of Yuzbashi in command of the police at Tatar Bazardjik. He was warmly recommended for further promotion by Blacque Bey and Sadoullah Bey, and has now by an Imperial Firman been named to the police command of the whole district. He is honest, energetic, and unfanatical, and devoted to his duties; and as a great deal in the maintenance of order depends upon this officer, it is probable that he will succeed in bringing the turbulent spirits of the district to their senses. The task is only difficult because of the kind of men who alone are found to accept the ridiculously-scanty pay of zaptiehs; it would be easy enough if a better class were attracted into the service.

I believe that, on the whole, the amount of crime has diminished within the last few weeks. It is decidedly and considerably less than when I arrived here last August. There are certainly times when it appears again to be on the increase; but I think there is truth in the explanation given by our Mutessarif, who compares the state of his district to that of a convalescent person suffering frequent relapses in the course of recovery from a serious illness. The case, it should be added, would be much hastened by greater vigilance on the part of the physician and the application of more effectual remedies.

As regards the fate of Ahmet Agha and Metto Beklash, the general impression here is that they will be pardoned, and this impression is strengthened by Safvet Pasha's announcement (in his telegram of the 9th instant) of an "amnesty for all individuals implicated in the recent events at Philippopoli."

The trial of the Turks who caused the death of Pope Boïtcho, of Streldja, and of those who towards the end of last year murdered two Bulgarians in a mill at Tchardakly (a case which, I believe, was reported by Mr. Baring at the time) are proceeding slowly; the former before Pertow Effendi, the latter before the Local Court. The Turks of Tchardakly having latterly threatened the Bulgarians of the same village on account of the imprisonment of the murderers, the Governor, whom I informed of the fact, had up the Mussulman Tchorbadjis before him, and warned them that the slightest molestation by them of the Bulgarians would be severely punished, adding that, as for as the murderers, nothing would save them from fifteen years' hard labour.

This is the utmost penalty provided by the law, save when the relations of the victim "demand blood," in which case the murderer is executed. In this sandjak no case is on record in which a Bulgarian peasant has insisted on the execution of a Mussulman murderer, the reason, as I stated in my last despatch, being fear of Mussulman vengeance.

The Commission, since the departure of Sadoullah Bey on the 10th instant, has held no sittings. Abro Effendi, the Armenian member, has been appointed by Sadoullah Bey to act in his place, though both Ikiades Effendi and Yovanitcho Effendi hold a higher official rank than their Armenian collegue. It is generally believed that Sadoullah Bey will not return, and that the Commission will be shortly dissolved, though his Excellency himself assured me of the contrary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—Deli Bekir and his companions returned this morning to Philippopolis, after an unsuccessful search for Deli Mehmet of Sitowo. The latter is reported by Deli Bekir to be in Constantinople, where he is waiting for an associate of his to bring down some 1,100 head of stolen sheep for shipment to the summer pasturages of Broussa.

The Bouyonrouldon, or warrant, given to Bekir by Sadoullah Bey authorizes him to capture only Deli Mehmet and the two brothers of Zonroushlon Ahmet Agha.

Bekir to-day waited on the Governor for further instructions, but met with a cold

reception, the Pasha stating that the affair did not concern him, and that he (Bekir) could do as he pleased. Bekir intends to start to-morrow from there for Ghumurdjina, having ascertained that the brothers of Achmet Agha are still there.

The lukewarmness of the Mutessarif in this business is probably attributable to a doubt as to how his furthering the capture of the criminals would be viewed at Constantinople.

Deli Bekir is a devil-may-care Turk, who once acted as public executioner at Philippopoli, and bears no particularly good character. But he is just the man for the work he has now undertaken. It was he, I understand, who captured the assassins of Mr. Merriam, an American missionary, who was murdered near here by Albanian Mussulmans some years ago. His offer to apprehend the fugitive Bashi-Bazouk leaders was made to me spontaneously. It was not accepted with alacrity by Sadoullah Bey. The man was kept waiting nearly a fortnight for his warrant, during which interval there was ample time for the culprits to have learnt that measures were being taken for their arrest.

I think they may still be caught if Deli Bekir is allowed fair play.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 249.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Jocelyn.

Philippopolis, March 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with an order from the Porte ratifying the decision of acquittal pronounced by the Commission upon Tossoun Bey, Ahmet Agha of Tumbrush, and seven other individuals, tried for the destruction of Klissowra, these persons were set at liberty on Wednesday last.

Their release, particularly in the case of Tossoun Bey, has occassioned much rejoicing amongst the Turks.

Nothing is known here yet with regard to the Porte's intentions respecting Achmet Agha of Dospat and the other persons concerned in the Batak massacre.

I have to report, however, that Mehemed Effendi Hodjazede, whose mission of intercession on behalf of these criminals is now notorious, returned from Constantinople the day before yesterday.

It is worthy of note that since the release of Tossoun Bey and his associates the Turks have begun to talk of a Mussulman rising in the event of the execution of Achmet Agha and Melto Bektash.

There has been a revival of disquieting rumours during the last two or three days; but I believe them to be without any real foundation.

One of these rumours is that Turks disguised as Christian peasants have been trying to stir up the Bulgarians, by assuring them that the Mussulmans are preparing to commit a general massacre. It is added that a Turk thus disguised has been seen and recognized in the streets of Philippopolis.

I believe this story to have its origin solely in the fact that the new Chief of Police is employing a number of detectives, who are now roaming about the town and country in the guise of peasants.

At present, apart from one or two highway robberies by Circassians, all is quiet in the district; even the calling to arms of the "Mustaphiz" has failed as yet to occasion any disturbance.

Ali Pasha, the new Governor-General of this province, arrived here on Wednesday and left evening for Tatar Bazardjik, on a tour through the districts of Philippopolis and Sofia.

A Commission, consisting of three Turkish and two Bulgarian members, has just been instituted, for the purpose of dividing the villages of this sandjak into groups of three or four, over each of which groups it is intended to place a Mudir.

The Extraordinary Tribunal under Pertew Effendi, after the examination of some further witnesses, has dropped the inquiry into the deaths of Hekim Spass and the widow Mitra Likoff at Peroustitza, the circumstances connected with which gave rise to suspicions of foul play, and led to a local inquiry and post-mostem examination, which I attended, and reported in my despatch No. 37 of last year.

The depositions taken have failed to bear out the suspicion of murder, and although the general belief at Peroustitza was that the deceased persons had been made away with by Turks of the neighbouring village of Oustiza, none of the witnesses, including the relations of the deceased, whom I questioned separately and privately, were able to give any satisfactory evidence in support of their supposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. R. CALVERT.

No. 250.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 278. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 9, 1877.

I HAVE had almost daily interviews with the Grand Vizier and the Foreign Minister during the week on the subject of the acceptance by the Porte of the Protocol, and I have endeavoured to the utmost of my power to induce the Turkish Ministers to comply with the conditions of the Russian declaration.

The very first one mentioned—viz., that of peace with Montenegro, involving, as it does, the whole question, presented, however, a serious barrier to the mission of a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh.

As I had the honour to report by the last messenger, the discussion of this subject in the Chamber of Deputies was adjourned, and I believe the Ministers hope to obtain from its decisions, when taken, such liberty of action as to enable them to offer terms to Prince Nicholas which may for the time at least prevent a rupture.

In my last two conversations with the Ministers, I have brought forward the unflinching determination of the Emperor not to abate any points in the declaration, recorded in Lord Augustus Loftus' telegrams, as a proof that a speedy decision is necessary on the part of Turkey, and I have lately been urging more especially the necessity of sending the Envoy without delay.

The recent death of Caboli Pasha, the Porte's Ambassador at the Russian Court, will greatly facilitate this step being taken, and spare the humiliation which would attach to it were the post not actually vacant.

This morning I saw Réouf Pasha, the Minister of Marine, who has always advocated a conciliatory policy, and he spoke to me in the above sense, promising to make his influence at the Council available in the interests of peace.

The Grand Vizier, whose suspicions of Russian policy are not difficult to excite, assured me a few days ago that he had reason to believe the mission of an Envoy to Russia would be utilized to bring about an independent arrangement with Turkey, and to obtain some signal advantage in return for disarmament and assurances of peace, as had been done on a previous occasion by the conclusion of the Treaty of Harkiar Skelin.

Supposing, he continued, that an understanding of this nature were arrived at, the Russian Government would give prompt orders to their agents in Bulgaria and elsewhere to suspend their revolutionary action; and when, in consequence of this being done, order and security had been restored to the insurgent provinces, Russia would come forward to prove the efficacy of her independent negotiations in the face of the combined efforts of the rest of Europe.

This he felt sure was the alternative now being offered to Turkey at the point of the sword, and it was one in which no statesman who had the honour of his country at heart could with dignity accept.

Were Turkey to discover without some adequate guarantee that the peace now under negotiation was not to prove a mere truce which the enemy might at any moment break and reassume a threatening attitude, she might find herself, in such an event, left utterly defenceless, and at the mercy of the invader.

Taking all this into consideration, he thought it probable that the conditions proposed by Russia would be refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 251.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 281.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1877.

THIS morning very early the Grand Vizier requested me to come to his house, and, on my arrival, he told me that the Council of Ministers which had been sitting the whole of yesterday to decide upon the question of the Protocol had now agreed upon three points.

First, To reject as much of the Protocol as they thought was derogatory to the dignity of the Empire, especially the clause relating to Consular supervision.

Secondly, To reject the Russian declaration altogether, as tending to isolate Turkey, and expose her to any pretext which Russia might think fit to act upon to resume her armaments.

Thirdly, That an appeal should be made to the Powers to propose themselves a mutual disarmament of the two countries.

He said he was perfectly aware of the gravity of the decision arrived at, and of the serious consequences which might ensue from it, but the position of the Porte was now such that it was impossible to allow the present state of things to continue, and its isolation from European sympathy could not be increased by the refusal of what must be regarded as a formal proposition to deliver up Turkey to be dealt with independently by Russia.

Safvet Pasha, whom I saw subsequently, and to whom I communicated the substance of your Lordship's two last telegrams, appeared to me to regret the absolute refusal which had been given.

He said that he would be glad to resume diplomatic relations with St. Petersburgh, but no special Envoy should be sent to treat of a matter which could be arranged in twelve hours by a simple interchange of telegrams.

He was not prepared to advise his country to submit to such a humiliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 252.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 82. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, April* 2, 1877.

AFTER forwarding by the post this morning my despatch No. 80, reporting my intention of seeking an interview with Prince Nicholas, I went to the Palace, and found that my Austrian colleague had just quitted His Highness.

I told the Prince that I had your Lordship's orders to support the conciliatory advice which I knew that Colonel Thömmel had been instructed to press upon him; and that Her Majesty's Government, having been in communication with that of Austria-Hungary, were of opinion that His Highness should forego his pretension to Nichsich, which, as he had been already informed, even General Ignatiew considered that the Porte could not in honour cede.

The Prince at once demurred to this statement, and read to me a telegram he had shortly before received from General Ignatiew, telling His Highness not to believe that he had used the language attributed to him in Vienna.

I took the liberty of saying that, if it were a question of credibility, I was sure that European diplomacy would be unanimous in preferring Count Andrassy's word to that of General Ignatiew, an observation which provoked no expression of dissent on the part of the Prince. But I added that, whatever the General might have said, one thing was certain, namely, that the International Protocol had been signed, and that there was a clear and pacific understanding between England and Russia, the result of which must be that His Highness could no longer count upon the advantages which might accrue to him from war between Russia and Turkey.

The Prince replied that he could not believe that Russia would demobilize before peace was concluded between the Porte and Montenegro; but that even in that case, he would rather engage Turkey single-handed than make a dishonourable peace; and the

acquisition of Nichsich, which he had so long blockaded, was now as much a point of honour to him as its retention could be to Turkey.

His Highness said that those Powers which professed to have an interest in Montenegro had been encouraging him to look upon the cession of Nichsich as a condition to which he was entitled; and he regarded himself as having been played with in this respect, and could not help resenting such treatment.

In the most forcible language at my command, I replied that I could not believe that His Highness had deliberately come to such a determination. I reminded him of the many occasions on which he had, far more eloquently than I could pretend to do, painted the horrors of war, and impressed upon me the pain and aversion which its cruelties caused him. His Highness knew infinitely better than I could describe the calamities and sufferings to which a renewal of the war would expose his people; but it was my duty to insist upon this topic, and to warn him also of the prejudicial effect as regarded his own interests which his persistence would produce among the Powers of Europe.

The Prince listened to my expostulations for some time, but at last rose from his seat to put an end to the conversation, saying, perfectly courteously, that nothing I could allege would alter his determination, and that I might inform your Lordship that he would wait until the 5th instant, in order to elicit from Russia, if possible, the truth as to Nichsich; but that on that day he will order his Delegates to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th ultimo; and if the Porte rejects them, MM. Petrovich and Radonich will leave Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 253.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 83. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, April* 2, 1877.

PRINCE NICHOLAS' secretary came to me this evening and told me that the orders to the Delegates referred to in my preceding despatch, No. 82 of this date, had already been telegraphed to Constantinople, and that if the Porte continues to reject the modified demands of the 16th ultimo, His Highness will telegraph himself to the Grand Vizier that he will take his stand on the *uti possidetis*, leaving the Turks to commence hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 254.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 84. Political. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, April* 2, 1877.

IN consequence of a confidential communication made to me this evening by Prince Nicholas' secretary, I have telegraphed to your Lordship to the effect that if the Porte holds to the retention of Nichsich as a point of honour, an offer to cede, instead, Spuz and the territory on the right bank of the Moratcha, originally demanded, might solve the difficulty.

I was asked to request Her Majesty's Government to consent to sound the Porte confidentially on this point, without giving it to be understood that the idea emanates from Montenegro, and without communicating the proposition to Austria or Russia.

Although it seems to me most improbable that the Porte would consider such a proposition, even if Her Majesty's Government consent to make it, I have thought that, in the interests of peace, it is my duty not to refuse to submit the idea to your Lordship; but I have been careful to express no opinion as to the light in which Her Majesty's Government may regard it.

Knowing how excited the Prince is, and how warlike are the counsels of those who

surround him, I took advantage of the opportunity to impress upon His Highness's secretary the absolute necessity of his urging moderation whenever the Prince gives him the slightest opening for doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 255.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 85. Political.)
Cettigné, April 3, 1877.
My Lord,

IN consequence of your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, instructing me to support any moderate counsels given by Austria and Russia to Prince Nicholas, I asked the Russian Acting Agent to-day what instructions he had received from his Government. He replied that he had received in all three telegrams from Prince Gortchakow, counselling moderation in general terms, and containing no specific orders about details. He has communicated the text of these telegrams to Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 256.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 86. Political.)
Cettigné, April 5, 1877.
My Lord,

MY Austrian colleague assured me last night that Prince Nicholas had told him yesterday afternoon, confidentially, that he would recall his Delegates from Constantinople to-day. Upon his assurances I telegraphed the news to your Lordship; but having seen His Highness this morning, I learn that, on the contrary, the Delegates will not leave Constantinople for some days, as the Prince hopes that after receiving to-day the repetition of his demands of the 16th ultimo, the Porte will, upon reflection, accede to acceptable terms. His Highness promised me that he would do nothing precipitate; and listened to my advice in favour of moderation to-day with far more readiness than I had ventured to hope. He, however, distinctly declares that he will not accept Colonel Thümmel's proposals to content himself with the south-eastern and south-western corners of the plain of Niehsich, which are under the guns, or at any rate within range of the fortress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 257.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 87. Political.)
Cettigné, April 6, 1877.
My Lord,

ANOTHER large Russian steamer has arrived within the last few days at Cattaro, with a cargo of grain for Montenegro.

Had it not been for these supplies, which are, I believe, paid for exclusively by private subscriptions, and forwarded by the Slav Committees without any official co-operation, the Herzegovina refugees in Montenegro would simply have been starved to death, and the horrors of famine would undoubtedly have fallen also upon the indigenous population.

There is much sickness among the refugees in the neighbourhood of Grahovo, where typhus and smallpox have recently broken out more severely than ever. The Director of the Russian Ambulance at Cettigné at once increased the medical staff stationed there, and has, within the last few days, visited the district himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 258.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 88. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, April 6, 1877.*

M. PLAMENAZ, the Montenegrin Minister of War, has returned within the last few days from Italy. The object of his journey, namely, the purchase of munitions of war, seems to have been accomplished; and although such matters are carefully kept from me, I believe that the arms and ammunition which he procured have been safely smuggled into Montenegro, in spite of the precautions taken by the Austrian authorities to prevent all transactions of the kind, and in spite also of the presence in the Bocche di Cattaro of the Turkish Consul-General, who came in haste from Ragusa to detect and arrest the operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 259.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 89. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, April 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams which have passed between me and Mr. Green respecting the revictualling of Niehsich, and the transport of grain to Riéka.

Your Lordship will see that Prince Nicholas, as a personal favour to me, has consented to allow the dispatch of an additional quantity of medicines and haberdashery to Niehsich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 259.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, April 4, 1877, 10 P.M.*

AS a personal favour to me Prince Nicholas will allow the twenty packages of haberdashery to be sent to Niehsich, also the ten cases of medical stores.

Inclosure 2 in No. 259.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, April 5, 1877, 3 P.M.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS states that as yet not quite half of the 1,200,000 okes have arrived at Riéka, whereas he believes that one other convoy will complete the provisioning of Niehsich. His Highness hopes you will continue your efforts to accelerate the forwarding of his grain.

Inclosure 3 in No. 259.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 6, 1877, 12·30 P.M.*

AUTHORITIES are grateful for additional haberdashery and medicines. Dervish Pasha states he continues to hasten to the best of his means the transport to Rieka. There are only fifty sacks of flour here, therefore maize is required to complete a cargo, which, however, will probably be ready for to-morrow. Pasha asserts that only just

half the provisions have reached Nichsich, and consequently the revictualling is not near its end.

No. 260.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 90. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, April 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD yesterday a confidential conversation with Prince Nicholas respecting the proposal, reported in my despatch No. 84 of the 2nd instant, that the Porte should cede Spuz and the district on the right bank of the Moratch instead of Nichsich, to the cession of which fortress His Highness would, in that case, renounce all claim.

The Prince himself commenced the subject, saying that he wished to talk to me most confidentially upon a subject which was known in Cettigné only to himself, his secretary, and to me, and he intended to take no one else into his confidence at present.

MM. Petrovich and Radonich had been visited unofficially, said the Prince, by Raouf Pasha, who had thrown out the hint that the Porte might not be disinclined to arrange a compromise on the question of the territorial cessions on the basis of the transfer to Montenegro of the districts originally demanded on the right bank of the Moratcha, in consideration of an abandonment by the Prince of his claim to Nichsich. In reply to my questions, His Highness said that he would consent to such a transaction; that he was anxious to make peace, and that such an arrangement would perfectly satisfy him, as it would give him cultivable land, and would at the same time rectify the irregularities of his frontier on the side of Albania.

The Prince said further, always in the strictest confidence, that he would do his best to make the arrangement with the Porte such as the Ottoman Government could produce as one perfectly honourable and even advantageous to Turkey, by making some slight cessions to her on the side of the Herzegovina.

He quite entered into all the difficulties that the Porte had to encounter in ceding territory to him, an act which would naturally offend and irritate the Mussulman population; and he was now, as always, most anxious to make such a Treaty of Peace as would enable him to live on terms of real amity with his neighbours, and to count upon a period of tranquillity which he could utilize in the civilization of his own people.

In answer to further inquiries on my part, the Prince said that he had no information as to the actual source of the proposal. His Highness repeated very earnestly his wish that I should regard the communication he had made me as most confidential, and one which he had no desire should become known, as yet, to Austria or Russia. He reiterated his discontent with both these Powers, with the one for her precipitation in throwing him over about Nichsich, and trying to impose on him a compromise with respect to that point which it was impossible for him to accept; and with the other for leaving him without a word of substantial advice, or even a clear expression of opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 261.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 91. Political.)
Cettigné, April 7, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90 of yesterday, I learn from my Austrian colleague that, in the course of conversation yesterday afternoon, Prince Nicholas remarked to him that he might be disposed to give up his claim to Nichsich if the Porte offered him Spuz and the right bank of the Moritcha instead.

I do not think that His Highness divulged the fact that steps had been taken to sound the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 262.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 92. Political.)
Cettigné, April 7, 1877.

My Lord,

JUST before post-time I learn that my Austrian colleague received last night a very urgent telegram from Count Andrassy, in consequence of which he went to the Palace before midnight, and urged Prince Nicholas not to be hasty in recalling his Delegates. His Highness, I understand, undertook to telegraph at once to them that, even if the Porte's answer to their communication of the 5th instant should be unfavourable, they should not leave Constantinople without further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 263.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 93. Political.)
Cettigné, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE the date of my last despatch, No. 92 of the 7th instant, I have had no private conversation with Prince Nicholas, His Highness' time having been almost entirely occupied with the religious observances of Easter (old style), to which strict attention is paid here.

I have, however, had opportunities of convincing myself, by conversation with several of the Senators and members of the Prince's household, that the disposition in favour of war is rapidly gaining ground.

The news that the Turks have already concentrated twenty-four battalions at Gatzho has produced a certain effect in Cettigné, and, odd as it may appear, the return of Mr. Stillman, the "Times" Correspondent, and his inflammatory language and advice, have contributed to the growing excitement.

Mr. Green sent me by messenger last night the news that the infatuation of the Turks had decided them to attack the Mirdites; and it is very probable that this act of folly will gravely compromise the chances of peace here. The Minister of War, M. Plamenaz, has just called to take leave of me previous to his departure for Albania, where he will take the command in the Kuci district.

The Prince, as I informed your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch, has given my Austrian colleague assurances in the same sense as those he had already given to me, namely, that he would take no precipitate step, and would not recall his Delegates as long as some hope of a pacific arrangement remained. But I fancy that His Highness feels considerable doubt as to the intentions of the Turks at the conclusion of the armistice, and that he is quietly taking measures to check them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 264.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 318.)
Vienna, April 7, 1877.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to information which has reached me from various sources, the German Embassy here have never believed that war between Russia and Turkey could be avoided, and I understand that they still consider the maintenance of peace as extremely improbable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 265.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 320.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 8, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, I acquainted Baron Orczy this morning with the opinion expressed by Safvet Pasha to Mr. Jocelyn on the 5th instant of the conditions upon which the Porte could carry out the recommendations of the Protocol, and he said that no information in confirmation of such an opinion had yet been received by the Imperial Government.

His Excellency informed me at the same time that a telegram had been sent to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires on the 6th instant, instructing him to state to the Porte that peace or war is now in its hands, and to recommend it urgently to accept the principle of the Protocol, as Europe will consider the Turkish Government responsible for the consequences which may be expected from its refusing to do so.

He also informed me that Count Andrassy had suggested to the Porte that a cession of the right bank of the Moratcha to Montenegro might induce Prince Nicholas to abandon his demand for Nichsich.

With respect to the Protocol, the Turkish Ambassador having spoken to me yesterday of the Russian Declaration as an insult to Turkey, I answered that there was no ground for such an opinion, as it appeared to me that the Declaration was merely intended to convey an assurance to Her Majesty's Government which your Lordship had asked for, that Russia would demobilize on the Porte's acceptance of the Protocol, and that the reservation contained in its latter clause was intended to conciliate public opinion in Russia, where the demobilization would probably cause dissatisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 266.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 322.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 9, 1877.*

I UNDERSTAND that a telegram was received here yesterday from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople reporting the intention of the Turkish Government not to accept the Protocol, without several reservations and modifications, with which your Lordship has doubtless been made acquainted by Mr. Jocelyn.

Urgent instructions were therefore again sent to M. de Herbert, representing the responsibility which would be incurred by the Porte if such a course were adopted; and Count Andrassy's departure for Hungary has consequently been postponed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 267.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 324. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 9, 1877.*

SINCE dispatching my previous telegram to your Lordship of this date, I have had some conversation with Count Andrassy respecting the crisis at Constantinople; and he will not, I think, leave Vienna until it is over.

His Excellency has not abandoned all hope of peace, but his reports from St. Petersburgh are warlike, and it would appear from them that the sentiments of the Emperor Alexander have become less pacific.

On the other hand, also, there is reason to fear that the Porte is unwilling to act in conformity with the exigencies of its position, and will neither accept the demands of Montenegro nor send a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 268.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 333.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 14, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's despatch No. 88 of the 6th instant, reporting the importation into Montenegro of arms and ammunition through Cattaro, Baron Orczy positively declares that no such importation has taken place, and that there is no ground for believing, as alleged by the Agents of Turkey, that many of the barrels and sacks landed at Cattaro contained arms and ammunition instead of grain.

It may be doubted, however, whether the cargoes landed at Cattaro for Montenegro were very strictly examined by the Dalmatian Customs-house officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 269.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 334.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 14, 1877.*

I COMMUNICATED yesterday to Baron Orczy the substance of your Lordship's telegram, received that morning, acquainting me with the language which you had held to Musurus Pasha on the subject of the Circular of the Porte declining to accept the Protocol, and his Excellency said that Count Andrassy had also, on the previous day, expressed the regret of the Imperial and Royal Government to the Turkish Ambassador here that the Porte should have adopted a resolution which would inevitably lead to war, contrary to the advice of her best friends, and for reasons which he considered unfounded.

I availed myself also of an opportunity later in the day to mention to Count Andrassy what had passed between your Lordship and the Turkish Ambassador at London, and his Excellency observed that he had spoken in a similar sense to Aleko Pasha on his communicating to him the Turkish Circular.

I learnt also from Aleko Pasha that his Excellency said the document was so long that his answer to it would require some consideration, but that his first impressions it conveyed to him were that the Porte had gone out of its way to find objections to a Protocol from which all expressions to which exception could have been taken as humiliating to Turkey had been carefully eliminated during the negotiations in London, and that the engagements of the Powers towards each other to watch over the execution of the reforms ought not to have been regarded as an infringement of the independence of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 270.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 335. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 14, 1877.*

WITH reference to my previous despatch No. 334 of this date, I have the honour to add that Count Andrassy, in speaking to me yesterday of the improbability of peace being maintained, said that Count Beust had suggested a plan for averting war, with the nature of which his Excellency did not acquaint me, but which he appeared to consider impractical, and as offering no hope of effecting the object in view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 271.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 336.)
Vienna, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's telegram of the 12th instant, reporting that the Montenegrin Delegates had been instructed to return by Odessa and Vienna, where it was expected that Count Andrassy would endeavour to bring about an arrangement between the Principality and the Porte, I have the honour to state that Baron Orczy, some days ago, in mentioning to me the intention of the Delegates to return by this route, said he believed that they had been instructed to do so in the hope of leaving a door open for further negotiations should the Porte see reason to reconsider its refusal of Prince Nicholas' proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 272.

Sir F. Head to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

9, Seymour Street, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE a telegram this morning from Mr. Michell, C.B., Manager of the Odessa Water Works Company, of which I am Chairman, suggesting the possibility of obtaining the good offices of the British Government to prevent the bombardment of Odessa by the Turkish fleet.

I may mention that my Company has spent 1,000,000*l.* sterling in the works which provide Odessa with water, that the shareholders are one and all British subjects, and that our property would be destroyed by bombardment.

I need hardly remind your Lordship of the remarkable forbearance shown by the British Government to Odessa and other commercial towns during the Crimean war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. G. HEAD.

No. 273.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 17.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 16 Avril, 1877.

L'AGENT des Principautés Unies vient de me communiquer un télégramme dans lequel son Gouvernement, en parlant des concentrations de troupes Ottomanes sur la rive droite du Danube, notamment à Widin, concentrations qui auraient provoqué l'émigration des habitants du littoral Moldo-Valaque vers l'intérieur, exprime le désir d'obtenir l'assurance que le territoire des Principautés Unies ne sera pas envahi par les troupes Ottomanes. Nous ne pouvons rien dire de précis à ce sujet. Si des événements nous placent en face d'une pénible nécessité, la Moldo-Valachie deviendrait un champ de bataille, et le peuple en souffrait énormement; l'invasion des troupes Russes dans les Principautés Unies créerait cette situation dont nous déclinons dès à présent la responsabilité, et qui nous imposerait des devoirs impérieux. En attendant le cours des événements, nous voudrions savoir si, dans les circonstances actuelles, la question de neutralité Moldo-Valaque a fait l'objet de négociations entre les Cabinets pour épargner à une population pacifique les calamités de la guerre. Veuillez sonder les dispositions du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité et me télégraphier sa réponse.

No. 274.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

Galatz, April 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Consul has ordered 100 flat barges to be constructed and ready in ten days.

2,200 sacks of Russian grain delivered here last night from Odessa. Contractor will arrive to-night. A bridge is to be constructed over the Sereth near Sherbesti. 300 Servian volunteers are at Ismail.

No. 275.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
Tiflis, April 16, 1877.

GRAND DUKE gone to Alexandropol. One battalion 660 strong, 19th division, left to-day for Ozurget, another battalion goes there to-morrow. I hear that Hassan Pasha at Batum is incapable. There ought to be a good General there.

A telegram has been sent by this Government to St. Petersburgh saying that this army will be ready by the 27th ultimo.

No. 276.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
Galatz, April 17, 1877.

BARGES will not be ready under thirty days; 28,000 Russian troops on frontier near Bolgrad.

No. 277.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.

HAVE you any knowledge, or can you ascertain truth of reports in "Manchester Guardian" of 26th of March, as to an attack by Bashi-Bazouks upon refugees returning to Otchievo, and the massacre of a Greek bridal procession at Glamosh.

Questions will be asked on Friday, and information is required by that day if possible.

No. 278.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 17, 1877, 11 A.M.

THE Grand Vizier is convinced that the Persian Government are seeking a pretext to break off relations with Turkey. Four principal causes of complaint are brought forward against the Porte:—

1st. Outrage at Medina.

2nd. The import duty levied upon tobacco from Persia.

3rd. The enrolment in the Ottoman army of children born of mixed Persian and Turkish marriages.

4th. The question of the residence of the brother of the Shah at Bagdad.

The Minister for Public Instruction, who has just returned from representing the Porte at Tehran, gives but a very indifferent account of the state of the Persian army; and his report has done much to calm the apprehension of the Government as to an impending attack from that quarter.

No. 279.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 17, 1877, 11·30 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Galatz, dated yesterday :—

"Russian Consul has ordered 100 flat barges to be constructed and ready in ten days.

"Two thousand two hundred sacks of Russian grain delivered here last night from Odessa. Contractor will arrive to-night.

"A bridge is to be constructed over the Sereth, near Sherbesti.

"Three hundred Servian volunteers are at Ismail."

No. 280.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 17, 1877, 6·45 P.M.*

MR. MONSON need not accompany the Prince in warlike operations, but had better remain for the present until it is seen how the crisis between Russia and Turkey ends, when arrangements will be made for relieving him.

No. 281.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 262.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and left with me the telegram from his Government, of which I inclose a copy,* inquiring whether the question of the neutrality of Roumania had formed the subject of negotiations between the Powers.

I told Musurus Pasha that no negotiations, so far as I was aware, had taken place with the object of neutralizing that Principality.

His Excellency pressed me to take steps, either on behalf of Her Majesty's Government alone or in concert with other Powers, to declare the territory of Roumania to be neutral, and to protect it from Russian invasion.

I gave Musurus Pasha little encouragement to suppose that either this country, or any of the other Powers, would take such a course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 282.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 133.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.*

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram of the 14th instant, in which you inquire as to the course which Mr. Monson should adopt in case of resumption of hostilities between the Porte and Montenegro, that Prince Nicholas is believed to wish that the foreign Agents should accompany him in his military operations. I have informed you to-day by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government would not authorize Mr. Monson to accept an offer that he should accompany the Prince on the field, but that it is their wish that he should remain at Cettigné until it is seen how the crisis between Russia and Turkey terminates; as soon as this is decided arrangements will be made for relieving him and enabling him to take the leave of absence for which he has applied for the restoration of his health.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 273.

No. 283.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.*

I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 29 of the 21st ultimo, with regard to the release of the two zeibeks who had been imprisoned for having been implicated in the murder of a Slav priest at Podgoritza.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 284.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. St. John.

(No. 19. Political.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 37, Political, of the 29th ultimo, relative to the reported enlistment of volunteers for Bosnia in Servia, and I have to instruct you to urge M. Ristitch to use his influence to prevent the continuance of the insurrectionary warfare which is inflicting so much suffering and loss on the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 285.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 5. Political.)

My Lord, *Damascus, April 5, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, of this day's date, reporting a late collision between Christians and Druzes in the plain of Cœle-Syria (Bekáa).

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 285.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Damascus, April 5, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a fortnight since a Christian of the village of Kharbet Kanafar, west side of the Bekaa, Kaïmakamlik of Mualleka, when crossing the Lebanon, going to Beyrout, was beaten by a Druze of Kefr Nebrakh, Mount Lebanon, going to Damascus, in a quarrel caused by the former's donkey being overthrown by the latter's mule.

In revenge, a few days later, the Christian with his friends waylaid the Druze and his companions on their way back from Damascus, at Jisser Jib Jinin, east side of the Bekaa, and very severely beat them, especially the one who had struck him.

On the arrival of the wounded Druzes at Kefr Nebrakh, much excitement was caused among their people by their narration; and on the following day ten of their sect descended the mountain to the lands of Kharbet Kanafar, where, meeting the "Natoor" (general servant of the village), they beat and wounded him severely.

The complaints arising out of these various collisions are to be tried, by the joint agreement of the Governor-General of the Lebanon and the Vali of Syria, before the Mualleka Medjliss, the chief town of the district in which they occurred.

I am told, however, that the Druzes mean to let the matter drop, on the plea that they do not expect to find justice or redress in that quarter.

As regards this point, I may observe that the Mualleka Medjliss is distinguished even among the many corrupt Medjlisses in this district, for the venality of its members, both

Moslem and Christian; and that a Commission of Inquiry is now being made into their conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 286.

Consul Moore to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Jerusalem, April 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 2 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this date, to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte, relative to the hostilities in the Hebron district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure in No. 286.

Consul Moore to Mr. Jocelyn.

Jerusalem, April 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 31st, your telegram of the 28th ultimo, and will carefully carry out your instructions therein contained to investigate and report cases of disturbances or outrages that may come to my knowledge, and to visit places where such occurrences are stated to have taken place.

On the 1st instant I reported to you by telegraph as follows:—

"Renewal of conflict referred to in No. 6 apprehended. Tarabin make raids on villages. Two companies of infantry left for disturbed district. Military force here insufficient to preserve order if the Redifs are sent off."

Since that date no fresh collision between the hostile tribes, so far as is known, has occurred; to prevent which is the mission of the detachment of Nizam despatched to the scene of action, and which is composed of 160 men and two guns.

The immediate occasion of this measure on the part of the Turkish authorities was an attack made by the Tarabin on the village of Daberiyeh, near Hebron. It would appear that the Teyyaha, and other villages in alliance with them, came to the rescue, and repelled the assailants, killing ten of their number and capturing some of their horses. The loss of the allies is said to have been only two wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 287.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 25. Political.)
Scutari, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

ON the morning of the 4th instant Mr. Wassich, the Austro-Hungarian Governor-General, communicated to his colleagues a letter which which he had just received from Preuk Bil Doda, and which was addressed to all the Consuls residing in Scutari.

I have the honour to furnish, herewith, copies and translations of the letter and its inclosure.

The Mirdite Chieftain in his communication states that he and the vast majority of his tribe having been obliged to expel from their midst Capitan Dod Ghega and his few adherents for having been false to their country, the Turkish authorities had determined to espouse Capitan Ghega's cause, and had already marched their troops on to Mirdite ground. Preuk Bib Dora warns the Consular corps that this step of the Turks will, if persisted in, result in a conflict and bloodshed.

In support of his statement that the Mirdites are united, Preuk Bib Dora forwards in his letter a copy of the communication made by the chiefs and elders of Mirdicia (see

Inclosure No. 3) to Dervish Pasha, when they first perceived the attempt set on foot by the authorities to ignore the existence of Bib Doda.

The Italian Consul and I were unable to induce our colleagues of Austria and France to accompany us on a visit which we thought it necessary to make at once to the Commander-in-chief and the Governor-General, in order to ascertain how far the news reaching us from Mirdicia was well-founded, as they could not believe that the Turkish authorities would go beyond threats.

Dervish Pasha met our inquiries with a frank avowal that the Turkish Government having, as it thought, exhausted all the means in its power to bring back the Mirdites to obedience, had ordered him to reduce them to submission by military force. His Excellency said the troops were already marching towards Orosci, and that he could only suggest that we should make our representations for a suspension of operations to the Governor-General.

We lost no time in calling upon Mustafa Pasha, who was shortly joined by Dervish Pasha, and, with great difficulty, we at last succeeded in obtaining a promise that an order would be sent to Brigadier-General Abdi Pasha to halt his march for forty hours. We, on our side, engaged to write to Preuk Bib Dora informing him of the delay accorded on condition that the retainers who were besieged in Capitan Ghega's house at Orosci should not be molested in the interval.

A copy and a translation are herein transmitted of my letter to Bib Dora. M. Berio addressed to him an identical communication.

Shortly before the expiration of the delay of forty hours, M. Berio having already received from Rome a telegraphic approval of his proceedings, and Mr. Wassich having informed us that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had telegraphed that, although the Porte would not suspend the military movement, it was prepared for mediation on the part of the Consuls, M. Berio and I once more called on the Commander-in-chief, who immediately sent for the Governor-General to come and be present.

We informed their Excellencies that we were prepared, if they would accept them, to use our good offices in order to bring about an understanding between them and the Mirdites. We added that the Austrian Consul-General had authorized us to say that he would co-operate with us to this end, and that we had reason to believe the French Consul would not separate himself from us.

There was no need to enter into any discussion with their Excellencies about the relief of Capitan Dod Ghega and his Turkish servants, as they knew we were aware that he is in perfect safety at Miet with the troops there, and that the people who are really besieged at Orosci are the servants left in his house, and whom the authorities, to serve their ends, have chosen to call zabtieh, or Imperial policemen.

Both Dervish Pasha and Mustafa Pasha clearly told us that they had determined upon getting rid of Bib Dora, and that if we would undertake to see him out of the country they would at once stop their military action.

As we were in no way prepared to lend ourselves to any such measure, we evaded making proposals having any other object than that of securing immediate tranquillity in Mirdicia, and the Pashas, under the impression, I suppose, that we would fear the responsibility, asked us to place our offer upon paper. We at once did so, but, as we thought that our colleagues would like to have knowledge of it before it was finally handed over, their Excellencies consented that we should bring the note, duly signed, to them in the afternoon.

After a few modifications had been made in the wording of the note, which enabled M. Ceccaldi, the French Consul, to give his adhesion to it, M. Berio and I sent to announce our visit to the Pashas.

We were put off some hours by some trivial excuses, and then at sunset I received a message, through the Governor-General's interpreter, that the Pashas could not receive M. Berio and me, and if we wished to hand them our *note-verbale*, of which a copy and translation are herein inclosed, and if we wished to speak about Mirdite affairs.

The terms of the message were so uncourteous that I hoped the interpreter had delivered it wrongly, and, as my intercourse with Dervish Pasha had been very friendly, I thought it better to go and ascertain myself privately whether no mistake had been made, not wishing in any way to be the cause of misunderstanding between the Consular Corps and the local authorities.

I was grieved, however, to find that Dervish Pasha shielded himself behind the action of the Governor-General, who, he said, had determined to hear nothing from the Consuls about Mirdite affairs unless contrary orders came from Constantinople. I recalled to his mind that the *note-verbale* had been drawn up at his and the Governor-General's express request, and that they were in no way bound to accept the offer contained in it. The

refusal to hold any intercourse with the Consuls on Mirdite affairs was a decision not only uncourteous but of serious significance.

When I called upon M. Berio to repeat the above, I found Mustafa Pasha's interpreter with him, repeating the message, and M. Berio, also loath to accept it at once, induced the interpreter to return to the Vali and endeavour to bring him to receive simply the *note-verbale*.

In a very short time the interpreter came back and delivered to us and M. Ceccaldi, who had joined us in the meanwhile, the Governor's reply:—

"His Excellency would receive no communication nor visit from any of the Consuls on any matter connected with the affairs of Mirdicia. His Excellency was surprised that the Consuls appear to persist so in wishing to see him, as they had no right to meddle in the affairs in question."

As I have already had the honour of informing your Lordship, this decision of the local authorities has deprived the Consular Corps of all power to intervene on behalf of moderation, and to prevent acts of fanaticism and misgovernment. It has, moreover, placed the Consuls in a most false position before the whole population of North Albania.

To obviate the possibility of our letter to Prenk Bib Doda of the 4th instant putting the Mirdites off their guard, as we in no way wish to appear to assist the Turks in their military operations, M. Berio and I wrote yesterday a few words to Bib Doda, announcing the failure of our attempts to obtain a further extension of the suspension of hostile measures.

The inclosed are a copy and a translation of his letter.

My past despatches have so fully explained the wishes and aspirations of the Mirdites, their ancient rights of self-government, and the only practicable means of retaining them as loyal vassals of the Sultans, that I will not touch on these subjects in this already lengthy report.

But, from Mr. Jocelyn's telegram to your Lordship of the 5th instant, I gather that either the local authorities are grossly misleading the Porte as to the true state of affairs here, or that the latter believes that it is possible to strike a speedy and decisive blow at all the Christian mountain organizations of North Albania.

Dervish Pasha, who knows that he is to be replaced in the command here by Ali Saib Pasha, is interested in creating a disturbance in order to get it to be believed that he is necessary to put it down, and he, no doubt, has depicted the attitude of the Mirdites as requiring immediate suppression.

It is he that has employed for many months past Salih Pasha and Capitan Dod Ghega, two well-known unscrupulous intriguers, to foment and invent disorders; and it is he that read to me a telegram from Alessio reporting an attack upon the place by the Mirdites which the troops had to use their best efforts to repel. This attack turns out to have been a false alarm given by an outpost, and it is doubtful whether there was any more firing than that of the sentinels.

The authorities are also declaring that upwards of ten soldiers have been killed in Mirdicia; but, unless one or two Mirdite adherents of Capitan Ghega are transformed into soldiers, no lives have as yet, as far as I can ascertain, been sacrificed.

If the military operations are pushed on, the troops will succeed in taking all the villages on the slopes of the mountains. These will, as usual, be pillaged and burnt, and then, if a further advance is made, the troops will probably be cut off from their base of communications, and have ultimately to surrender, as has happened before here, in Candia, in the Herzegovina, and in other mountainous countries of this Empire.

Should war recommence with Montenegro, the North Albanian mountaineers would necessarily receive the support from the Principality which has been promised, and which will place the Turkish troops in these parts in a position of the greatest danger.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 287.

Prenk Bib Doda to the Consular Corps of Scutari.

Orosci, April 1, 1877.

(Translation.)

To the noble Consulates of Austria, Hungary, France, Italy, England, and Russia, existing in Scutari.

THE Mirdite population has always enjoyed its autonomy, and the Turkish authorities have never meddled with the affairs of the said population.

This population has, at various times, let the Imperial Government know that the notorious Dod Ghega could not be recognized as a Mirdite, and that he had been thrown off from the lap of this great family, owing to the intrigues and tergiversations employed by him against the laws and the existing and traditional rule. Among others, proof of this is given in the letter written under date of the 7th of the past month, to his Excellency Dervish Pasha, by the notables and elders of our five standards (sections of the Mirdite tribe). I have the honour to inclose herein an authentic copy of this letter. Notwithstanding all this, I have this moment received the news that the Imperial troops have overstepped the Mirdite confines in the direction of Naracci, and that there announced object is to free the kulé (fortified house) of Dod Ghega, which is besieged by the people.

The consequence of this step will most certainly be a conflict, and blood will be spilt. I, as acknowledged head of this people (which I am endeavouring to tranquillize, leading it to hope that one day the Turkish authorities will come to admit the culpability of Dod Ghega), am forced to declare to all the Consulates existing in Scutari that I have done all that was and is in my power in order to avoid the effusion of blood, and that if an attack takes place, it will have to be attributed solely to the wish and conduct which the Imperial Ottoman authorities have desired and thought proper to follow against the Christians of Mirdicia, and the laws that they have enjoyed.

It is, furthermore, my duty to inform the noble Consulates that, in accordance with my exhortations, many of the people have returned to their families, but that it is morally and materially impossible to force them to acknowledge Dod Ghega as their fellow-countryman.

In full confidence that the noble Consulates will be pleased to take notice of the present communication, I have, &c.

(Signed) P. BIB DODA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 287.

Miridite Chiefs, Elders, and Notables to Dervish Pasha.

(Translation.) *Orosci, March* 7, 1877.

IN compliance with the invitation of his Excellency Prenk Pasha, we Chiefs and notables of Mirdicia have assembled in Orosci, and have debated on the intention of the Governorship-General of Scutari with regard to us and our people, based on your Excellency's despatch of the 24th February last. Being earnestly urged by his Excellency Prenk Pasha that we should take such measures as would not, as heretofore, be considered by the Ottoman Government as opposed to its ideas and orders, we, being unanimously agreed, and being the organs of the Mirdite people, were prepared to send some of our number with a duly signed letter which would have conveyed our true determination to adhere completely to the instructions of our Government, and we in the meanwhile set at liberty Zeciel Bey and Mustafa Agha, opened the high road to all traffic, and sought to avoid the disorders which had hitherto existed by publishing the punishments to be inflicted in accordance with our laws (Kanèn).

Whilst, however, we were discussing the decisions to which we should hold ourselves, the news came that the markets in the towns were closed against us, and that many Mirdites who had gone down to Alessio on private affairs had been detained and imprisoned.

Excellency, we cannot conciliate the good intention of the Government towards us with these facts, and if it is true, as some of our people tell us, that the arrest and the liberty of our people are in the power of Dod Ghega and of his few adherents, we earnestly pray your Excellency to openly declare to us whether it is in the interest of the Government to have on its side the whole of the Mirdite population, together with us elders and notables, or Dod Ghega's services alone. We in the meantime inform your Excellency that we will not from this time forth acknowledge this man as our colleague, nor as our Chief (which he has never been), and not even as a Mirdite, because he has by his proceedings and his tergiversations convulsed and embroiled us for a long time past, as is already known by the Government itself.

We would wish to hope, however, that the Imperial Government will not desire to place in opposition to our services of centuries and to our loyalty and devotion to it (always under the guidance and command of the illustrious ancestors of Prenk Pasha) the unmentionable and offensive acts, as far as the Mirdites are concerned, of Dod Ghega and his few followers.

Under this belief we have dissolved our Assembly, in order to fly immediately to our

flags (tribal divisions), lest some step should be taken owing to the said arrests, whilst we shall await with anxiety the instructions of your Excellency, and with that submission and respect which it is our duty to show.

(Here follow the signatures of three standard bearers and twenty-seven elders and notables.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 287.

Consul Kirby Green to Prenk Bib Doda.

Scutari, le 4 Avril, 1877.

M. le Pacha,

EN accusant réception de la Circulaire que votre Excellence a adressé au Corps Consulaire résident à Scutari, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer qu'à la suite de cette dépêche j'ai fait, d'accord avec mon Collègue d'Italie, des démarches auprès de son Excellence Dervish Pacha et son Excellence Mustafa Pacha afin d'obtenir un sursis de quarante heures à l'action militaire qui avait commencé contre la Mirditie.

Pendant ce délai on devrait suspendre toute mesure de part et d'autre, et je viens par conséquent engager votre Excellence à vouloir mettre toute son influence auprès de ses compatriotes afin que les hostilités contre Dod Ghegah cessent en cet intervale.

Votre Excellence voudra bien, je l'espère, se rendre compte de l'utilité de cette démarche, dictée qu'elle est par le désir de la pacification, ainsi que de la responsabilité qui pourrait peser sur votre Excellence.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) W. KIRBY GREEN.

(Translation.)

Scutari, April 4, 1877.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of the Circular which your Excellency has addressed to the Consular Corps residing in Scutari, I have the honour to inform you that, in consequence of that despatch, I have, in conjunction with my Italian colleague, taken steps in order to obtain from his Excellency Derwish Pasha and his Excellency Mustafa Pasha a suspension for forty hours of the military movement which had commenced against Mirdicia.

During this delay all measures must be suspended on each side, and I consequently have to urge your Excellency to employ all your influence with your fellow countrymen in order that the hostilities against Dod Ghega may cease during this interval.

I hope your Excellency will be able to understand the value of a step taken in order to insure peace, as also the responsibility which rests upon your Excellency.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 287.

Note Verbale.

MM. LES Consuls de la Grande Brétagne et d'Italie offrent leurs bons offices pour le retour de la tranquilité en Mirditie.

Ils sont également autorisés à offrir les bons offices de M. le Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie, et à déclarer de la part de M. le Consul de France qu'il sera toujours disposé à se joindre à ses collègues dans le but du retour de la tranquillité en Mirditie si les bons offices du Corps Consulaire sont acceptés.

Les Consuls de Grande Brétagne et d'Italie constatent qu'il est entendu que pendant ce temps les opérations militaires sont suspendues et que le district de la Mirditie restera dans le *status quo ante*.

(Signé) W. KIRBY GREEN.
BERIO.

Scutari, le 6 Avril, 1877.

(Translation.)

THE Consuls of Great Britain and Italy offer their good offices for the return of tranquillity in Mirdicia.

They are also authorized to offer the good offices of the Consul-General of Austria-

Hungary, and to declare, on the part of the Consul of France, that he will be always disposed to join his colleagues in order to obtain a return of tranquillity in Mirdicia, if the good offices of the Consular Corps are accepted.

The Consuls of Great Britain and Italy note that it is understood that during this time military operations are suspended, and that the district of Mirdicia will remain in the *status quo ante*.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.
BERIO.

Scutari, April 6, 1877.

Inclosure 5 in No. 287.

Messrs. Berio and Green to Prenk Bib Doda Pasha.

M. le Pacha, *Scutari, le 7 Avril*, 1877.

PENDANT le délai de quarante heures, expirant hier à midi, délai qui à notre demande avait été consenti par les autorités Impériales Ottomanes, nous avons continué nos démarches, avec l'appui de M. le Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie et M. le Consul de France, dans le but d'obtenir une prolongation à la suspension des mesures militaires contre la Mirditie.

Nous avons le regret d'informer votre Excellence que nos démarches sont restées sans résultat.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) BERIO.
W. KIRBY GREEN.

(Translation.)

M. le Pasha, *Scutari, April 7*, 1877.

DURING the delay of forty hours, expired yesterday at noon—a delay which had been agreed to by the Imperial Ottoman authorities on our demand, we continued our steps, with the support of the Consul-General of Austria-Hungary and the Consul of France, in order to obtain a prolongation of the suspension of military measures against Mirdicia.

We regret to have to inform your Excellency that our steps have led to no results.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) BERIO.
W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 288.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April 17*, 1877.

STAFF left Tiflis. Troops apparently concentrating on Alexandropol and Ozurget. All artillery left Tiflis. Only troops here are local sappers and three battalions of 38th.

I can obtain no information as to whereabouts of remainder of that and 20th division.

A number of civilians sent to frontier to be employed in Turkish territory if conquered.

No. 289.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 17*, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

I LEARN indirectly that the Russian Government will not grant permission to the Military Attachés to the Embassies here to accompany active army.

Application for the German Military Attaché has been refused. French Military Attaché being already for some months at head-quarters of Grand Duke Nicholas, will not, however, be recalled.

No. 290.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 18, 12·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 18, 1877, 10·50 A.M.

TURKISH "Official Gazette" has published despatch from the Governor-General of Bosnia accusing the Austrian authorities of contributing to present state of disturbance in that province, and contradicting flatly the assertion made by Count Andrassy to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna in reply to his remonstrances.

The publication of this despatch has, I am told, given great offence at Vienna.

No. 291.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 19, 12·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 18, 1877, 11·5 A.M.

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a message from the Sultan's Chamberlain confirming the denial of any corporal punishment having been inflicted upon a student of the Military School, as was stated in the "Times'" telegram.

My informant had seen the four culprits in question, who were well.

Minister of War wishes to take proceedings against the "Times" for the libel.

No. 292.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 18, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April* 18, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

RUSSIAN General of Engineers with staff has proceeded to Kalafat to inspect and take charge of works.

No. 293.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 18, 5·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 18, 1877, 3 P.M.

SULTAN has appointed Hobart Pasha Commander-in-chief of Turkish fleet. He left for the Danube this morning, and intends placing some of his vessels at juncture of the three branches of the river so as to hinder ascent of a hostile squadron.

No. 294.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1877, 6·5 P.M.

BRING confidentially to the knowledge of the Porte the incompetence of the Governor of Bosnia, reported in Consul Holmes' despatch to you, No. 24 of the 5th of April.

If you have an opportunity let the Sultan know.

It is of the greatest importance to the Turkish Government that a competent Governor should be appointed to Bosnia.

No. 295.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 261.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1877.

WITH reference to Mr. Holmes' despatch No. 24 of the 5th of April, addressed to you, I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Porte confidentially to the reports

which Her Majesty's Government have received of the incompetence of the Governor of Bosnia, and to state to them that it appears to be of the greatest importance to Turkey that a competent Governor should be appointed for that province.

You will also mention the matter to the Sultan if you should have an opportunity of doing so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 296.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 152.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1877.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and, in the course of conversation, asked me whether I saw any prospect of further steps being taken with advantage to arrest the outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey.

I did not express myself hopefully as to the success of any such attempts.

M. de Martino added that if hostilities did take place, he hoped, at all events, that means might be found to circumscribe the war, and to prevent its extension to other countries.

I said that our efforts must, of course, be directed to that object, and I observed that the interests of this country would not allow us to see Constantinople fall into the possession of Russia.

M. de Martino replied that such an event would be equally prejudicial to Italy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 297.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 109.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1877.

I APPROVE the note which your Excellency addressed to Prince Gortchakow, informing his Highness of the temporary appointment of Mr. Layard as Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 145 of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 298.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 143.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1877.

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me to-day the substance of a telegram which his Government had received from their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, dated the 13th instant.

M. Nelidoff reported that in the Turkish capital there was no longer any question of a mission to St. Petersburgh or of any further negotiation. The Porte, he said, did not dare to disband its army, and could not keep it unemployed. War had therefore been decided on, and was being prepared for with feverish rapidity ("fièvreusement"), while awaiting the declaration of hostilities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 299.

Lord Tenterden to Consul Holmes.

(No. 6.)
Foreign Office, April 18, 1877.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you an extract from the "Manchester Guardian" of the 26th ultimo, relative to outrages stated to have taken place at Otchievo and Gramosh, and I am to instruct you to report whether these events have come to your knowledge, and, if not, to endeavour to ascertain whether there is any foundation for the reports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 300.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 284.)
Constantinople, April 11, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 203 of the 7th March, I have the honour to state that the Governor of Aleppo has informed the Porte of the arrest of the five persons accused of having been concerned in the murder of the British Consular cavass in that city, and that their trial is now going on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 301.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 45. Political.)
Belgrade, April 12, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42 of the 5th instant, on the subject of the refusal of the Turkish General on the Drina to evacuate two islands adjoining that of Bouyouklitch, which before the war belonged to Servia, I have the honour to report that M. Ristitch yesterday informed me that the two islands in dispute had been evacuated by the Turks and given over to the Servian authorities.

The frontier question between Turkey and Servia may now, therefore, be considered as finally settled, should the Commander on the Drina not raise new difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 302.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 18. Political.)
Galatz, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of this day's date, informing your Lordship that an immediate re-assembly of the troops had been ordered. This course is said to be taken in consequence of a determination expressed by the Turks to occupy Ibraila and Kalafat in the event of the Russian army crossing the Pruth, and there is a feeling here that this latter event may take place at any moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 303.

Lord Tenterden to Sir F. Head.

Sir,
Foreign Office, April 19, 1877.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, requesting on behalf of the Odessa Waterworks Company the good offices of Her Majesty's Government to prevent the bombardment of Odessa in the event of hostilities breaking out between Russia and Turkey.

In reply I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; but I am to add that Lord Derby fears that in the event of war Her Majesty's Government will be able to exercise little influence for the protection of property, such as that belonging to the Odessa Waterworks, against damage from any military operations which may be undertaken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 304.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, April 18, 1877.

NOTWITHSTANDING information in my telegram of the 16th, it appears from present reports that the Mirdites have not entirely ceased their resistance.

Two battalions coming from Prisrend were attacked on Mirdite ground, and had three killed, and about ten wounded. Already these battalions are accused of having killed some women and children, and pillaged all the houses on the sides of the high road.

No. 305.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
Galatz, April 18, 1877.

SEVERAL Russian officers and four army contractors here—among other things 300 transport cattle wanted—a small number said to be an experiment. Conditions of wood-contractors' tenders to be furnished by the 4th of May, pontoons by the 9th of May

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No. 306.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, April 18, 1877.

THE information contained in Mr. Green's telegram communicated to me by your Lordship to-day had been already received here, and I have reason to believe that this Government will not intervene in favour of the Mirdites or Bib Doda, beyond recommending the Porte to treat them with leniency, and to endeavour, with a view to its own interest, to induce them to resist Montenegrin allurements and return to their allegiance to the Sultan.

No. 307.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, April 19, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 13th instant, Persian Minister has applied for assistance of Her Majesty's Government to obtain reparation for outrage on pilgrims at Medina. I have told him that I had offered good offices provided they were acceptable to both parties, and that I would instruct you to speak to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs about the affair. You will do so accordingly.

No. 308.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th, Captain Napier's journey should not be countermanded on account of threatened Russian occupation of Kizil Arvat. He may proceed to the frontier; but Her Majesty's Government leave him absolute discretion to carry out, modify, or abandon his original plan in regard to both the Akhals and Mara, according as he may deem expedient on arrival there; it being clearly understood that his personal safety is a paramount consideration.

No. 309.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

I AM informed by Admiralty that one of Her Majesty's ships will be kept on coast of Syria for the present.

No. 310.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 18 of March 17, I am informed by Admiralty that one of Her Majesty's ships will be kept on coast of Syria for the present.

No. 311.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 19, 1877.

THE Roumanian Agent has requested me to communicate to your Lordship a telegram received yesterday from his Government appealing to the Guaranteeing Powers to use their influence at Constantinople to induce Porte not to invade Principalities. I forward the telegram by post, and hope in the course of the evening to be able to acquaint you with Minister for Foreign Affairs answer to it.

The Agent has received a further telegram to-day, instructing him to propose that the Porte should respect territory of the Principalities on condition that the Roumanian Government should occupy Kalafat, where they are prepared to send 25,000 men, and to hold it against Russia.

No. 312.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 153.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language used by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 116 of the 9th instant, in speaking with Signor Melegari on the subjects of the return to Constantinople of the foreign Representatives who were withdrawn on the breaking up of the recent Conference, and of the motives which have influenced Her Majesty's Government in sending an acting Ambassador to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 313.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 264.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 256 of the 13th instant, I have to inform you that the Persian Minister at this Court has requested the assistance of Her Majesty's Government to obtain reparation from the Turkish Government for an outrage committed on certain pilgrims at Medina.

I told Molcom Khan that I had already offered the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in this matter, provided they were acceptable to both parties, and that I would instruct you to speak to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

You will do so accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 314.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 269.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from Sir F. Head, Chairman of the Odessa Waterworks Company,* invoking the good offices of Her Majesty's Government to prevent the bombardment of Odessa in the event of hostilities breaking out between Russia and Turkey; and I inclose also copy of the reply which I have caused to be made to this communication.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 315.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 15.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1877.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language in which, as you reported in your despatch No. 82 of the 2nd instant, you urged upon Prince Nicholas the importance of his maintaining a conciliatory attitude in the negotiations at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 315*.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 19, 1877, 9 P.M.

THE Roumanian Agent informs me that Count Andrassy has written to Constantinople insisting strongly in the sense of Roumanian appeal to Powers to prevent Principalities being made battlefield between Turkey and Russia, because it cannot oppose march of the Russian army to the Danube. He expects to learn to-morrow how far Count Andrassy will support proposal of his Government for neutralizing Kalafat.

In a despatch which I forwarded to your Lordship by messenger this afternoon, I have already mentioned that as the case in question is not provided for in the Treaty of Paris, Count Andrassy does not appear to anticipate that his representations in favour of the wishes of Roumanian Government will be successful.

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* No. 272.

† No. 303.

No. 316.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 42. Political.) *Bucharest, April 15, 1877.*

My Lord,

I LOSE no time in informing your Lordship that the Prince yesterday assembled a special Council, composed of the Minister President and various other persons of note who have held office in this country at various times.

The above comprised Messieurs Cogalniceano, Epureano, Rosetti, Bosiano, Golesco, Prince Demetre Ghika, Prince John Ghika, and various others.

Prince Charles, in a few opening phrases, stated that the Senate being unfortunately dissolved, it was impossible at this moment, a moment of peril and crisis to Roumania, to have recourse to the Legislative Bodies; he had therefore summoned around him the most eminent political men of the country with the view of having the benefit of their advice, a proceeding which was not only due to the country, but was also indispensable for the action of his Government.

M. Bosiano advocated the strictest neutrality; M. Epureano, in a very remarkable speech, recommended the observance of the strictest neutrality, as obligatory by the Treaty of Paris; views in which he was followed by M. Golesco and Prince John Ghika. Prince Demetre Ghika talked of the inviolability of the Roumanian territory, &c., but finally more or less coincided with the former speeches. M. Cogalniceano was less explicit, which is to be accounted for by the possibility of his joining the present Cabinet as Minister for Foreign Affairs; while M. Rosetti held language which might be considered to indicate a distinct tendency to a Russian alliance.

M. Bratiano, while declaring the impossibility of opposing Russia, and hinting that a Convention could be arranged with the latter to facilitate the passage of the armies without detriment, present or future, to Roumania, asserted his fixed opinion that every effort must be made to defend the works which they have been lately throwing up at Kalafat, and to oppose any infringement of the Roumanian frontier by the forces of the Porte.

At a Cabinet Council yesterday evening, it was decided to hold the elections for the Senate ten days sooner, which is a violation of the Constitution, and might, of course, at a future date, be advanced as an argument that any legislation by the coming Senate is invalid; but under the circumstances, however, the measure appears to be justified, and it would seem that M. Bratiano now much regrets that he dissolved the Senate last week.

In the event of the Emperor of Russia coming to Kischenew, it is extremely probable that Prince Charles will go thither in the course of the next few days.

It is also stated that a portion of the Roumanian reserves will be mobilized for the protection of Kalafat and other points, where the Turkish forces might attempt a settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 317.

Mr. Andrews to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

The Indo-European Telegraph Company (Limited),
16, Telegraph Street, Moorgate Street, London, April 19, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM instructed by the Board of this Company, in view of a proximate state of war in the Black Sea, to earnestly beg for the intercession of the English Government with the Turkish Government to respect the Anglo-Indian line of the Company from Kertch by the Straits of Kertch to Ekaterinodar, and thence along the coast of the Black Sea by way of Soukoum Kaleh and north of Poti to Tiflis, as forming part of the Anglo-Indian Government lines of through-communication between England and India, the interruption of which communication would be a serious detriment to the British and Indian Governments and publics, and disastrous to this Company.

I am also instructed respectfully to urge that any measures which your Lordship may be pleased to take in this matter may be communicated to Turkey by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. ANDREWS, *Manager.*

No. 318.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 19, 1877.*

CONTRACT made to-day (for?) bread, spirits, barley, hay, for cavalry advance guard; quantity indefinite, but small; to be ready 30th April at Galatz and Cahul (*sic*).

Six field-guns in fortifications.

No. 319.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 19, 1877.*

FOLLOWING received from Consul at Erzeroom, dated yesterday:—

"Russian Vice-Consulate at Kars was attacked last night by soldiers; windows were broken and entrance forced; they were finally repulsed by being fired on. Authorities have placed guards round Vice-Consulate."

No. 320.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20, 12·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 20, 1877, 12·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom dated 18th instant:—

"Russian Consul received instructions to quit. Will leave early next week. French Vice-Consul to protect Russian interests. Great uneasiness prevails."

No. 321.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20, 12·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 20, 1877, 10·30 A.M.*

TELEGRAPHED to Constantinople:—

"Authorities say Bib Doda has written to offer to deliver himself up.

"Natives state this act will not carry with it submission of whole Mirdicia."

No. 322.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20, 1·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, April 20, 1877, 12·18 P.M.*

BARON MOLINARI, Governor of the Croatian frontier, has written to Austrian Consul here that on the $\frac{1}{2}$th March Mussulmans of Kuleu Dakup attacked inhabitants of Otchievo, said to have taken no part in revolt, carried off 400 head of cattle, and killed Vaso Karnovick.

Neither myself or colleagues have heard anything of the massacre of a bridal procession at Glamosh; both places are in the midst of the disturbed country, and anything is possible.

I telegraph to-day to Freeman to go to Glamosh and inquire into matter.

No. 323.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April 20, 1877.*

FIVE HUNDRED sappers from Russia gone to Orpiri, also 500 local troops. Four battalions of the 38th leave this for the same place to-day. Might not remainder of same division and 20th have gone to south of Tiflis for Alexandropol. Will endeavour to discover. They have not gone through Tiflis, nor have they gone to north-west of it.

No. 324.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 20, 1877, 3·8 P.M.*

EMPEROR of Russia, accompanied by Czarewitch, left this morning for Kischeneff. It is reported that Archduke Albert will meet His Majesty there.

Complete silence here as to period of rupture of relations.

No. 325.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic) *Constantinople, April 20, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

I LEARN on good authority that M. Nelidoff, at present Russian Chargé d'Affaires, has been appointed Superintendent of the Diplomatic Chancery, to accompany the army of the Pruth.

Post is one of considerable importance, and he will, it is said, receive his instructions directly from Prince Gortchakow, who is to accompany the Emperor to the camp in a few days.

No. 326.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 20, 1877.*

NO information has been received here of the continued resistance of the Mirdites to the Turkish authorities, reported by Mr. Green.

No. 327.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 20, 1877, 4 P.M.*

THE statement made to me yesterday by the Roumanian Agent is not confirmed by the Under Secretary of State.

His Excellency, on the contrary, says that Roumanian Government has always been advised to maintain a strict neutrality and passive attitude; and that the Porte, in answer to an inquiry as to its intentions and to a suggestion as to expediency of encouraging Roumanian neutrality, had answered that the occupation of Roumanian bank of Danube must be left entirely to the discretion of the military Commanders, and that if Russia invades the Principalities, the Porte cannot be responsible for any disastrous consequences which may follow. The Austrian Government, therefore, consider that representations at Constantinople, in the sense of the Roumanian appeal to the Guaranteeing Powers, would be fruitless.

No. 328.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, April 20, 1877.*

PERSIAN Government continues to disclaim all intention of causing embarrassment to Turkey in her present difficulties. The Shah's feelings are known to be antipathetic to Turkey, and this influences more or less the opinions of his Ministers. The Persian Minister of Foreign Affairs has sent me an unsigned paper in which the grievances of Persia against Turkey are set forth for reference to your Lordship, with the request that Her Majesty's Government should, through friendly advice to the Porte, endeavour to obtain their redress.

Their complaints are—

1. The seizure of Kotoor and other places.

2. The ill-treatment in Turkey of Persian subjects generally, and pilgrims in particular.

3. The continued residence of the Shah's brother at Baghdad in defiance of an official promise given in writing by the Porte.

4. The recent outrages at Medina.

5. The non-settlement of the Turco-Persian boundary question.

I have repeated to the Persian Government that the Porte cannot be expected [here follow five groups undecypherable] arrangement of present circumstances to enter upon or take steps for the adjustment of three of these questions which are of very old standing; but the Shah's Government are evidently desirous to take advantage of the present crisis, either to obtain concessions from Turkey on these points, or to procure a promise of the full support of Her Majesty's Government when they are discussed hereafter, and by mooting the question of the grievances now they leave it open to Persia to continue to maintain friendly relations with Turkey or to break them off as the expediency of the moment may dictate.

No. 329.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 236. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 20, 1877.*

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day, and read to me a telegram from the Duc Decazes, stating that the following communication had been made to him by the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires at Paris:—

The Turks, the Chargé d'Affaires had stated, intended to invade Roumania, in order to occupy several points of territory, to destroy the railroads, and even to seize Bucharest. An interview which the Roumanian Agent at Constantinople had had with Safvet Pasha seemed to leave no doubt on this subject. The Roumanian Government appealed therefore to the Powers to use their influence with the Porte against such a step. They believed that the invasion of their country by Bashi-Bazouks could not be justified by the passage of the Russian army, which would merely traverse the country, and they hoped that Europe would not allow the Turks, without a protest, to transfer the seat of war to Roumania. They claimed the advice and support of the Powers before taking counsel from their despair.

The Duc Decazes adds that he has reason to believe that these last words imply the possibility of a political agreement with Russia, and he says that he would be glad to know the view taken of the matter by Her Majesty's Government and that of Austria, and the answer which we intend to return to this communication.

I told M. d'Harcourt that I had expressed no official opinion upon the subject, but that I thought on the face of it the Roumanian request did not appear to be such as Her Majesty's Government could support. It was asked that we should take steps to prevent any Turkish force entering Roumanian territory, while nothing was said as to the exclusion from that territory of the Russian armies. It might, no doubt, be very inconvenient to the Roumanian people that their country should be made the field of military operations, but it did not seem consistent with justice that it should be open to one combatant and closed against another, while it was obviously useless, assuming that war had been decided upon, to call upon Russia to abstain from crossing the Roumanian frontier.

I said further that I could not but entertain a suspicion that the request was put

forward, not in the expectation that it would or could be complied with, but with the view of laying a foundation for an understanding with Russia.

M. d'Harcourt seemed inclined to concur in this opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 330.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Aleppo, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of this date, reporting to Mr. Jocelyn on a case in which torture was inflicted by the police of Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Aleppo, April 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the occasion of a recent case of burglary, a certain Mahmood Sherbetji, of this town, denounced as the robber the husband of a cousin of his, Hadji Ahmed Hadjar by name, with whom he had been on bad terms for years, and whom he had invited to his house.

An officer of police was sent, and Hadjar was arrested. On his denying all knowledge of the robbery, he was put to torture. After being burnt with red-hot iron pincers, he confessed that he was the robber, and that the stolen goods could be found in the house of a sheikh who has been hitherto much respected at Aleppo.

That house was searched by the police, and none of the articles robbed were found in it.

Hadjar was loaded with chains and lodged in prison. He addressed a complaint to the Governor-General, declaring that he was innocent of the robbery, which he had confessed only to escape further torture.

A medical inspection of his wounds was ordered, and the fact of his having been repeatedly burnt was proved. He was sent to the military hospital, while the officer of police and Mahmood Sherbetji were placed on their trial for their conduct.

Hadji Ahmed Hadjar will be tried on the charge of burglary when his wounds are healed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 331.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 11. Political.)
Aleppo, April 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch to Mr. Jocelyn relative to the death of a Christian in consequence of having been beaten by the police at Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Aleppo, April 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the death of a Christian blacksmith at Adana, under the following circumstances:—

There is in that town a blacksmith's workshop belonging to the Government, which is

unoccupied on account of its being situated in an unfrequented street. An officer of police was sent to order this Christian blacksmith to move into it.

He objected that he had paid rent in advance, and that he would lose his customers by going to a place so inconvenient for his business.

He was then beaten with sticks on his head so unmercifully by the officer and his men that he had to be carried to his house, where he died after lingering four days. The Government doctor and three other doctors were sent to report on his death. The latter declared it to have been caused by the blows he had received on his head, but the Government doctor alleged that he died of liver complaint.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 332.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 12. Political.)
Aleppo, April 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch to Mr. Jocelyn on the subject of the conduct followed by several battalions of the Turkish reserve at Alexandretta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 332.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Aleppo, April 4, 1877.

Sir,

HAVING heard from private sources of the reserve troops sent from the towns of the interior of this province having displayed the same animosity against the Christian population of Alexandretta as has been evinced elsewhere, I have endeavoured to ascertain the particulars of their conduct, but the absence of the British Vice-Consul and the negligence of the Spanish Vice-Consul, whom he left in charge of his post, have deprived me of the means of obtaining accurate official information. It appears to be true, however, that those troops have been allowed by their officers to insult and throw stones at Christians without being checked, and to take things from shops without payment.

I regret exceedingly that the instructions contained in your circular of the 29th January last should not have been fulfilled on this occasion, for it was not in my power to remedy the neglect of them at Alexandretta, before the troops were embarked, by placing a more efficient person in temporary charge of the British Vice-Consulate there until the Earl of Derby shall have decided who is to be the permanent occupant of the post.

As I had the honour of reporting to you in my despatch No. 16 of the 15th ultimo, it is not possible to procure the details required from the military authorities here, who have refused them also to the Russian Consulate. All I have been able to learn is that the number of soldiers of the Reserve at Alexandretta was 6,000, and that Austrian steamers had come to convey them to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 333.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 13. Political.)
Aleppo, April 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of this date to Mr. Jocelyn, regarding the dangers by which the American missionaries and their families, including a British subject, seem to be surrounded at Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 333.

Consul Skene to Mr. Jocelyn.

Aleppo, April 4, 1877.

Sir,

ADVERTING to my despatch of the 19th of February last, I have the honour to inform you that the disturbances therein reported have been renewed at Aintab by a second attack on one of the establishments of the American Missionaries there. A crowd of Mussulmans tried to enter it, and, on being refused admittance, they began pelting it with stones, breaking windows, but not injuring any of its inmates. The Professor of Medicine of the College, residing there, having failed in inducing the assailants to disperse by talking to them, and his remonstrances having been received with abusive language, went out and soundly beat with his stick a lad who was foremost in the fray. At this critical moment the Governor fortunately arrived with some policemen, who put an end to it.

A few days later the family of the Professor of Medicine, when taking a walk, accompanied by two native schoolmasters, were met by several armed Mussulmans, one of whom almost touched with the muzzle of his gun the face of their governess, who is a British subject, saying, "That is what you will get from us."

I cannot help fearing that these will not be the last incidents of the kind at Aintab, the dwelling-houses, as well as the cottages and schools, of the at Americans being exposed and indefensible, while a degree of hostility against them has arisen which may possibly lead to subsequent attacks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 334.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Scutari, April 10, 1877.

My Lord,

THE following is an account, given me last night by an eye-witness, of the proceedings during the last two days of the Turkish force that had been collected at Miet, on the confines of Mirdicia.

Colonel Osman Bey, on Sunday morning, with, as near as can be roughly calculated, 1,500 regular troops and 2 mountain-pieces, advanced by a very difficult pass, about two miles distant from Miet, along the banks of a river which runs into the Drin. The foremost troops were covered in their advance by the fire of the others. The Mirdites replied by about twenty-five shots, but without effect. Two of their men were seen assisted off by their comrades, so there is no doubt they were wounded.

The pass ought to have been impracticable, had any real resistance been offered.

When all the troops had defiled through the pass, they reformed and advanced to a hill, from which the fortifications of Scutari are distinctly visible in a right line.

Smaller hills on each side were occupied by the Mirdites. These positions were taken after a very slight resistance.

There cannot have been more than 150 to 200 Mirdites, and the majority retreated before the soldiers came within gun-shot. One man was seen to fall, and two or three were assisted to shelter by their companions.

There were no killed or wounded on the Turkish side. The Mirdite shots mostly fell short.

Yesterday (Monday) until late in the afternoon no hostilities occurred, the Mirdites being busily engaged in raising a breastwork on the top of a hill at about two miles distant from the Turks; but, another informant tells me that shortly before sunset heavy artillery firing, and a rapid fusillade was heard from the direction of the Turkish positions.

Fully 500 Bashi-Bazouks shared in the operations with the troops, and they were always foremost in the skirmishing.

My informant has been told by Colonel Osman Bey that a simultaneous movement has been made on Mirdicia from all sides, and that his portion of the work will momentarily end when he has occupied the hill upon which the Mirdite breastwork is being erected.

A great expenditure of ammunition has taken place since the commencement of the operations, as the troops keep up a constant fire at night. No tents have been provided, and a further advance cannot be made until rations, &c., arrive.

The Mirdites are at a great disadvantage, as they are only armed with antiquated flint guns. The Bashi-Bazouks, whose numbers are hourly increasing, are all armed with Peabody-Martini, or Snider rifles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 335.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 27. Political.)

Scutari, April 10, 1877.

My Lord,

IN confirmation of the telegram I had the honour to forward to your Lordship last night, I beg to furnish herewith a translation of the letter sent to me by Prenk Bib Doda, in reply to the one I had written to him, calling upon him to suspend all operations against the house of Capitan Dod Ghega during the forty hours' delay accorded by the Turkish authorities.

An identical reply was also sent to M. Berio, the Italian Consul.

It will, I fear, now be seen that the military movement against Mirdicia was not really ordered for the sole purpose of supporting the authority of Capitan Ghega, and that it has been set on foot with the hope of crushing the semi-independence of the mountaineers.

My colleagues agree with me that, in the face of the peremptory refusal of the authorities to hold any intercourse with us on the Mirdite affairs, we are powerless to make any further effort, based on Prenk Bib Doda's letter, to stop the advance of the troops.

And now a most objectionable factor has appeared on the scene in the shape of numerous bands of Bashi-Bazouks, whose only inducement to join in the expedition can be a thirst for plunder.

It is very possible that the Mirdites may offer a successful resistance, but, notwithstanding, I cannot help feeling anxiety, as in the contrary event all kinds of excesses are sure to ensue.

As yet no news has reached me and my colleagues of the operations in the direction of Alessio, Plana, Dibra, Matia, and Prisrend, but as the irregular element in the forces there preponderates, and as Salih Pasha commands the Bashi-Bazouks in person, the outlook is not reassuring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Prenk Bib Doda to Consul Kirby Green.

(Translation.)

Orosci, April 7, 1877.

Sir,

THE most civil letter which you were good enough to address me on the 4th instant reached me last night, and I am most grateful to you for having hastened to instil pacific intentions on their Excellencies Dervish and Mustafa Pasha, and for the delay of forty hours obtained from them.

I have great pleasure in communicating to you that, before your letter reached me, I was able to persuade the people besieging Dod Ghega's kulé to cease hostilities; to withdraw from the said kulé quite safe all his relations and friends who had been brought over by him; to have the kulé watched by persons worthy of trust (Christians and Turks), belonging to other tribes, so as to obviate the slightest possibility of any backsliding resulting from race or religion, and to arrange so that all the furniture and belongings of Dod Ghega should be respected, a most exceptional thing in these countries in such encounters.

I have great hopes, Sir Consul, to be able also to save his kulé and those of some of his adherents, already condemned by the opinion of all and by traditional law to become a prey to the flames, but I must admit that it will be impossible for me to bring these people to recognize Dod Ghega as a Mirdite.

If the Imperial Ottoman authorities want, at whatever cost, to attack Mirdicia, and to drive away by one blow the sentiment of devotion and fidelity which has existed for centuries, certainly it will not be attributable to my wish, but to the desire of the said

authorities to ruin a whole people because they wish to protect an individual disliked by this people for reasons already known to the Imperial Government. The invasion by the Imperial troops has commenced on the territory of the Bulgheri (Mountains of Alessio), and from this it can be perceived that it is clearly the intention of the authorities of Scutari to beat down all the Christian tribes (whose fault is exactly that of being Christians), and to tread under foot the traditional laws which have always governed them, without the Government having ever had cause to complain of them.

Convinced that you, Sir Consul, will do all in your power to prevent a disastrous conflict, and that blood may not be shed for the sake of a man who is looked upon with disfavour by this people, I have, &c.

(Signed) PRENK BIB DODA.

No. 336.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 97. Political. Confidential.)

Cairo, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

THE news from Constantinople appears most serious, and the general impression here is that war between Russia and Turkey is imminent.

The Khedive is evidently very anxious and sorely perplexed what to do; further demands for assistance have, I believe, been made upon him from Constantinople, and he is divided between his fears of offending the Porte and his desire to meet the wishes of the European Powers, particularly of England and France. He sees that if war breaks out his position will be difficult and critical, and he has no strong arm to lean upon for advice. I think he was disappointed at my declining to offer any opinion upon the delicate question of the extent to which he ought to entertain the Porte's appeal for further assistance. Several of my colleagues, particularly the French Agent, have spoken to me upon this point and expressed their opinion that any further assistance to be given by the Khedive should be the exact measure of the engagements into which he has entered with the Porte, and nothing more, and this is my strong opinion; but unless he is supported by France and England, he will certainly have to yield to the demands of the Porte, however extravagant they may be.

The Egyptian contingent now in Turkey amounts to about 9,000 men, and if His Highness be called upon to increase it when war breaks out, he will find it difficult to do so both from want of money and because, having disbanded a great part of his army from economical motives, he could hardly send away many more soldiers without almost denuding Egypt of troops.

His position, moreover, in the country is not very secure; troubles have quite lately occurred in Upper Egypt arising from excessive taxation, which he has had to put down by military force; he and his family are far from popular, and it is only right that I should inform your Lordship that there is a strong and growing feeling among foreigners, and among many natives, that the best and, indeed, the only issue out of the difficulties with which Egypt is beset would be its occupation by England.

The Viceroy is beginning to think of making military preparations to send further assistance to Turkey; when they are decided upon I shall know what they are, but meanwhile he has promised the Porte that he will do all he can within the limits of what is possible, and that his son, Hassan Pasha, shall command the Egyptian contingent in the field.

In the event of war, I do not think there is much fear of any fanatical outbreak here of natives against Europeans, unless, indeed, the natives were provoked to it by the Government; but it would not be unwise that a British man-of-war should from time to time visit Alexandria and Suez; while it will certainly have occurred to Her Majesty's Government to provide against the possibility of a blockade of Alexandria or of the Mediterranean entrance of the Suez Canal.

My Russian colleague tells me that he is ready to leave Egypt at the shortest notice; and he will entrust the interests of Russian subjects in Egypt to the German Agent and Consul-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 337.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 134.)

Rome, April 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in yesterday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Musolino expressed a desire to address an interrogation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the intentions of the Government in the event of a war in the East; and the Deputy Di Cesaró called upon the same Minister to make such declarations as should reassure the country as to the safety of the national interests of Italy in the East.

Signor Melegari said that he would answer both interrogatories after having replied to one, long since announced, of the Deputy Petruccelli della Gattina, and proposed that Monday next should be fixed for the discussion.

The Deputy Di Cesaró insisting, however, upon an immediate answer to his question, the Minister replied that the manner in which the Government had hitherto provided for the safety of the interests of Italian subjects in the East should be a sufficient guarantee to the country as to the manner in which they would be cared for in future eventualities.

The discussion on the foreign policy of the Government was then fixed for next Monday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 338.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 2. Political. Private and Confidential.)

Corfu, April 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a secret report received this morning respecting the intrigues on foot for exciting disturbances in Albania.

I received some hints from Athens, now a fortnight ago, that attempts were on foot to excite a revolt in the neighbouring Turkish province, of which Corfu was the centre; but which, in common with my Ottoman colleague, I was, and am persuaded was not the case. But that Russian emissaries are actively at work in this bad cause I can now no longer doubt, and in this sense I have by this mail reported to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

By the mail of the 19th instant, I shall take leave to communicate further with your Lordship on this subject.

Being ignorant of the line of policy which Her Majesty's Government might see fit to pursue in the event of successful attempts to excite an insurrection within Turkish territory, I do not venture to ask for the presence of a ship-of-war from the squadron now at Malta, and leave it to your Lordship to give orders in this matter should it be deemed expedient.

I cannot, however, refrain from giving utterance to my very decided conviction that should the Russian Agents succeed in exciting a revolt in Epirus, we shall have a repetition of the bloody scenes in Bulgaria which have caused such horror and indignation throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world.

With, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Secret Report received by Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Corfu, le 17 Avril, 1877.

LE semaine dernière un voyageur débarqué du bateau Dalmato-Albanais du Lloyd Autrichien arriva à l'Hôtel d'Angleterre et y prit logement. La taille haute, élancée, et le type militaire de ce voyageur, qui était évidemment un homme du Nord, éveilla mon

attention; mais ce fut l'étrangeté de son escorte qui fixa mon intérêt, car elle se composait de quelques Epirotes en costume national et à la figure hardie.

Ce Monsieur s'inscrivit sous le nom de Becker, rentier, provenance illisible.

Je fis surveiller ces accointances; elles accrurent mes soupçons. Il fut hanté par un Sieur Croni, membre du Comité Ionien pour l'Epire et l'Herzégovine, et le Vice-Consul Hellénique à Santi Guaranta, dont j'avais remarqué la participation bruyante à la mise en scène du plébiscite provoqué l'année dernière d'après l'exemple de Zante, dans l'intention de pousser le Gouvernement dans la voie d'action préconisée par la jeune Grèce.

M. Becker partit par le bâteau Italien d'hier pour le Pirée, après avoir déjeuné à l'hôtel avec le Vice-Consul susnommé, qui s'appelle Barca.

Or, on avait dit très-sérieusement à la personne qui me le référa que ce vrai, on prétendu Becker ne fut autre que le Chef d'Etat Major du Général Tchernaieff; qu'il revenait d'Albanie et d'Epire, et qu'il affirmait que l'insurrection était prête à éclater de nouveau, ayant à sa disposition cette foie des armes, des munitions et des fonds qui en garantissaient le succès.

Cette révélation toutefois ayant été faite par un Grec à un Grec le 1er Avril (v.s.) je hésitai de la porter à la connaissance de mon Gouvernement. Cependant en considérant que ce Consulat-Général Ottoman, ainsi qu'il me constate positivement, avait été informé officiellement ou officieusement que des émissaires dirigés sur l'Albanie et l'Epire allaient ré-apparaître à Corfou; en considérant que réellement ces jours-ci des figures étrangères rodaient autour dans ces parages, je suis disposé à croire qu'il pourrait être d'une importance sérieuse d'y veiller.

No. 339.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

No. 295.) *Paris, April 20, 1877.*

My Lord,

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI (who appears to have been rather suddenly reappointed Roumanian Agent at Paris) came to me yesterday, and said that he was anxious to speak to me of the difficult position in which Roumania was placed by the imminence of war between Russia and Turkey.

There was, he said, reason to apprehend that the Turkish troops might seek immediately to occupy Kalafat and other advantageous military positions in Roumania even before the Russians crossed the Pruth. In this case the Roumanian forces would be bound to resist them, and thus Roumania might be placed in the embarrassing and disadvantageous position of having fired the first shot in the war. He was, therefore, directed by his Government to beseech the Governments of France and England to intervene at Constantinople in order to prevent any violation of the Roumanian territory by the Turks.

He had, he said, already spoken to the Duc Decazes, and received from him a promise that he would communicate with Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I asked M. Callimaki Catargi what course the Roumanian Government would take if the Russian forces were to be the first to enter its territory.

He answered that the cases were very different; that there was no natural frontier between Russia and Roumania, such as was formed by the Danube on the Turkish side; and that it would be simply impossible to offer any resistance to the advance of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 340.

Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Co., to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

Ipswich, April 20, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING read in the "Daily News" of yesterday that the English Government are interesting themselves to protect the town of Odessa from bombardment should war be declared between Russia and Turkey, we, as perhaps the largest English holders of property in that city, venture to address you on the subject.

Although we believe that some batteries have been temporarily put up, yet Odessa is completely an unfortified town, and iron-clads with the present long range ordnance could

easily reduce to ruins in a few hours the commercial part of the town which is situated near the sea. Our own establishment—filled with valuable machinery—is in this quarter, and the property of other English merchants would also be exposed to danger in case of bombardment.

We sincerely trust that your Lordship will use all the influence of Her Majesty's Government with the Porte to spare the bombardment of a purely commercial town and one which has never at any time been used as a great military or naval centre.

We have, &c.
(Signed) RANSOMES, SIMS, AND Co.

No. 341.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 20, 1877*

REGULAR Roumanian army leave Bessarabian fortifications, beginning opposite Isakteha. No heavy guns.

No. 342.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 21, 1877, 2 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following telegram to Mr. Holmes:—

"A telegram, dated Obbrovazzo, 18th April, has been received at Trieste from Mr. Arthur Evans, stating, 'Returned from inquiry into outrages on returned refugees; seen burnt villages Ochievo and neighbourhood; nine massacred. Twenty to twenty-five girls and women outraged; examined twenty-three witnesses at different spots in Croatia and insurgent territory.'"

No. 343.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 21, 1877.*

I ARRIVED yesterday afternoon, and had a long interview with Grand Vizier last night; I found him more desperate than warlike. He thinks war inevitable as the pecuniary resources of Empire are exhausted; with 5,000,000*l.* sterling, he said, negotiations might be prolonged, but without money Turkey must fight at once.

He referred to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris as the only hope of peace.

I encouraged the idea, suggesting at the same time that if the Powers agreed to mediate, the Sultan might spontaneously decree disarmament. I pointed out to him strongly that there was no change of public opinion in England as regards Turkey, and begged him not to entertain any illusion on that point; but I observed that if the Porte, by the signal punishment of those who had been concerned in Bulgarian outrages, and by coming to an honourable arrangement with its foreign creditors, gave a proof of its desire to conciliate and satisfy public opinion, its position might be improved. After two hours' discussion he promised to consult his colleagues upon these points, viz., appeal to VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, disarmament, should mediation be accepted, punishment of culprits, and arrangement with foreign creditors, and to see me again as soon as possible.

Not having specific instructions from your Lordship on the subject, I did not press strongly appeal to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris. I should be glad to know as soon as possible whether Her Majesty's Government wish me to do so. As far as I can judge it affords the only chance, although it may be a small one, of avoiding war.

Grand Vizier said that Roumania was threatening fresh difficulties, complaining of accumulation of Turkish troops on the Danube frontier, while she did not appear to object to presence of Russian troops on the Pruth. Austria, he added, had shown during the last few days a more favourable disposition, and had prevented revolutionary agents

crossing to Bosnia. He anticipates a sudden attack on the part of the Russians on Batoum, which he, however, considers well defended.

On the question of sending a special Ambassador to St. Petersburgh, Grand Vizier spoke in very decided language, observing that it was not necessary for bringing about disarmament, and he would not have the whole Eastern question discussed there.

I shall see Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, and the Sultan probably to-morrow.

No. 344.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 21.)

Galatz, April 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

HORSES are being requisitioned in the country by the local authority of Galatz. Prefect has received orders to take measures for safety of archives.

No. 345.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of to-day, Her Majesty's Government fear that it is too late for diplomatic action, but they would be ready to reply favourably to an appeal from the Porte to mediation, if the other Powers would join and Russia accept.

No. 346.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 5.)

Foreign Office, April 21, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the Indo-European Telegraph Company, requesting the intercession of Her Majesty's Government with the Porte for the protection of their property in the event of war;* and I have to instruct you to state to the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government trust that in the event of hostilities no injury will be done to the Anglo-Indian line of telegraph from Kertch by the Straits of Kertch to Ekaterinodar, and thence along the coast of the Black Sea by way of Soukoum Kaleh and to the north of Poti to Tiflis.

This line forms part of the Government lines of through-communication between England and India, and any damage which might cause its interruption would be a matter of serious inconvenience to the British and Indian Governments.

I have already instructed your Excellency by telegraph to make a representation to the Porte in the sense of this despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 347.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 8.)

Foreign Office, April 21, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to that portion of your Excellency's telegraphic despatch of this day's date in which you mention that at an interview which you had on the evening of the 20th instant with the Grand Vizier, his Excellency had referred to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris of 1856 as the only hope of peace, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government fear that it is now too late for diplomatic action to be successfully taken.

They would, nevertheless, be ready to give a favourable answer to an appeal for mediation from the Porte if the other Powers would consent to join, and if the Russian Government would accept such an arrangement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 317.

No. 348.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 63.)

My Lord,

Athens, April 14, 1877.

THE anniversary of the independence of Greece, which is usually kept on March 25 / April 6, was not kept this year until Thursday last, the 12th instant, in consequence of the former day having been the Greek Good Friday.

There was a *Te Deum* in the Cathedral, which was attended by their Majesties the King and Queen, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, by the Corps Diplomatique, with the exception of the Ottoman Legation, by the Greek Ministers, and by the other public functionaries.

The Prime Minister called upon me after the ceremony, in order to express to me the thanks of the Hellenic Government for the honour which had been done to the nation by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in taking part in their national festival.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 349.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 64. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Athens, April 14, 1877.

HAVING learnt from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople that he had been informed that a Committee at Athens had organized a rising in Crete, which was to break out on the first reverse of the Ottoman troops, I have thought it right to call M. Deligeorges' attention to the matter.

Although the state of Crete is such that it is only too probable that an insurrectionary movement would break out in the contemplated eventuality, if not sooner, M. Deligeorges did not seem to believe that either of the Committees here had yet gone so far as to encourage such a movement on the part of the Cretans, or that any arms had been lately sent to the Island from Greece.

Even if Mr. Jocelyn's information should be correct in other respects, it is not at all probable that Colonel Grivas, whose name he had mentioned, can be mixed up in the plot, as I believe that he only came to Athens for a few days in the course of the past winter, and he would be more inclined to promote a rising in Epirus than in Crete, if he was prepared to run the risk of compromising himself in an undertaking of the sort.

When I inquired of M. Deligeorges whether he did not think that Colonel Coroneos or M. Zimbrakaki, two Greek officers who are well known to interest themselves in Cretan affairs, might be engaged in the organization of the rising in question, he confided to me that the latter officer had lately been sent for by the Minister of War, and warned that whilst he was in the Greek army he was expected to abstain from embarrassing his Government by promoting any movement in the neighbouring Turkish provinces or in Crete.

With respect to Colonel Coroneos, M. Deligeorges supposes him to be too much occupied in Corigo, with a view to his election as a deputy for that Island, to take any active part in the promotion of any insurrectionary movement for the present.

In the meantime, one of the Committees established here, the "Brotherhood," has issued a notification, of which I beg to inclose an English translation, repudiating any connection with rash movements in the neighbouring Provinces, as being opposed to the interests of Hellenism, and declaring that M. Leonidas Bulgaris is not a member of the Society.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 349.

Notice.

(Translation.)

THE Athens Syllogos, "The Brotherhood," notifies that, faithful to the object for which it was created, the Syllogos has nothing to do with any rash movement in the

neighbouring Provinces, considering such acts as ruinous to Hellenism, and that none has been sent by the Syllogos on any such mission either abroad or in the interior, should any persons have presented themselves falsely in their name.

As several persons have asked whether M. Leonidas Bulgaris is a member of the "Brotherhood," the Syllogos, moreover, notifies that it has no connection or relation with him.

Athens, March 31/April 12, 1877.

No. 350.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Rome, April* 19, 1877.

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me in a recent interview that when war had actually been declared between Russia and Turkey, he should deem it necessary for the protection of Italian interests in the East that Count Corti should return to his post as Italian Minister at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 351.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 347.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, reporting that the Roumanian Government have appealed to the Guaranteeing Powers to use their influence at Constantinople to induce the Porte to give up its alleged intention of sending a force, principally of irregular troops, into the Principality, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the text of a telegram from Bucharest which has been communicated to me by M. Balatchano, for transmission to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 351.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Balatchano.

(Télégraphique.) *Bucarest, le* 18 *Avril*, 1877.

IL nous revient de tous côtés que les Turcs se proposent d'envahir la Roumanie pour occuper plusieurs points de notre territoire, détruire les chemins de fer, et s'emparer de Bucarest même. Ce bruit est plus que confirmé par un entretien que le gérant de notre Agence à Constantinople a eu dernièrement avec Safvet Pacha, à la suite d'une demande, adressée à ce dernier, de nous épargner les maux de la guerre en renonçant à passer le Danube.

En présence de ces graves nouvelles nous en appelons aux Puissances Garantes, qui savent combien notre conduite a été correcte, à une époque où une action de notre part aurait pu avoir des conséquences fâcheuses pour la Turquie.

Sur les conseils des Puissances nous observons, depuis un an, la plus stricte neutralité. Nous nous adressons donc aujourd'hui à elles, pour les prier de peser sur le Gouvernement Ottoman, afin que la Roumanie ne devienne pas le théâtre de la guerre.

L'envahissement de la Roumanie par l'armée et les Bachi-Bouzouks Turcs ne saurait être justifié par le passage de l'armée Russe, ainsi qu'on veut le croire à Constantinople. L'armée Russe ne fera que traverser notre territoire, avec l'assentiment tacite des Puissances. Nous ne savons faire ce que l'Europe ne fait pas. Mais, de ce que nous ne pouvons pas nous opposer au passage des armées Russes, il ne s'en suit pas que la Turquie ait le droit de transporter le théâtre de la guerre en Roumanie.

Si les Puissances nous abandonnent dans un moment si critique, et laissent la Turquie réaliser ses menaces, nous n'aurions plus à prendre conseil que de notre désespoir.

Je vous prie de voir immédiatement son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de lui exposer la gravité de la situation, et de le prier d'intervenir énergiquement à Constantinople.

Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince compte fermement sur l'appui bienveillant du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois pour épargner à la Roumanie les calamités de la guerre.

No. 352.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1877.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of yesterday's date reporting that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, in accordance with instructions which he had received from his Government, had suggested to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the visit of the Emperor of Russia to Kischeneff might afford the Porte an opportunity of sending an Ambassador to meet him there.

If, as I gather from your Excellency's report of your conversation with the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, there is reason to believe that such an Embassy from the Porte to the Emperor Alexander would be acceptable to the Russian Government, it would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be extremely advisable that such a course should be adopted, and that the Russian Government should be informed without delay of the intention of the Porte to send the Ambassador.

With reference to your Excellency's request contained in your further telegram of yesterday, to be furnished with instructions in order that you might be enabled to suggest to the Porte, with the authority of Her Majesty's Government, some course which would be acceptable to Russia, and which might have the effect of bringing about a pacific solution, I have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, by telegraph, to report whether he is aware of any plan of arrangement which would be accepted at St. Petersburgh, and which would be likely to lead to a suspension of hostilities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 353.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1877.

WITH reference to the passage in Mr. Layard's telegram of yesterday which has been reported to you, in which his Excellency states that it would be of great importance that he should be enabled to suggest to the Porte, with the authority of Her Majesty's Government, some course which might possibly be accepted by Russia and might induce her to suspend hostilities, I have this day requested your Excellency by telegraph to report to me whether you are aware of any such course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 354.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires informs me that, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, he suggested to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that presence of Emperor Alexander at Kischeneff might afford opportunity to Turkish Government of sending an Ambassador to meet him, but that his Excellency would not listen to the suggestion. I asked him whether this suggestion had been made in consequence of any understanding with Russia. He answered that he had no authority to say that it was, but that he had reason to suppose an Ambassador so sent would be acceptable to Russia.

No. 355.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Constantinople, April 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th instant, and to Mr. Jocelyn's despatch No. 239 of the 3rd instant, I have informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to offer their good offices to arrange differences between Turkey and Persia. His Excellency assures me that he does not apprehend any difficulties between the two countries. He has agreed to send a Commissioner to Medina to inquire into alleged outrages upon Persian subjects, and to punish those who are proved guilty of them. The only question that remains is the removal of the brother of the Shah from Bagdad. Porte has invited the Prince to Constantinople, and the Persian Government have expressed their willingness to agree to this arrangement. I have telegraphed to Consul-General to use his influence to induce the Prince to accept the invitation. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs states to me that he has received the most positive assurances from Persian Government that there is no secret Treaty between Persia and Russia, and that the Shah could not assist Russia in an attack upon Turkey without violating the religious sentiments of his people. His Excellency attaches little importance to the military resources of Persia, and does not apprehend any attack on her part on the Bagdad frontier.

No. 356.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Constantinople, April 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen Minister for Foreign Affairs. I have urged upon him in the strongest manner the importance of making a further attempt to avoid war, using the same arguments and making the same suggestions as in the interview with the Grand Vizier, referred to in my telegram of this morning.

I found that the Grand Vizier had already seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had informed him of what had passed between us last night.

It appears to me that there is a disposition to take the step mentioned in my telegram, viz., a last appeal to the Powers for mediation.

A Council will probably be held on the subject immediately, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised to see me as soon as a decision is come to; I should therefore be very glad to have your Lordship's views on the subject.

I found his Excellency very apprehensive of a sudden attack on Batoum. He stated that he had received information that Prince Charles of Roumania, accompanied by Russian officers, was about to superintend measures to be taken for the defence of Kalafat.

No. 357.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Constantinople, April 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE reason to believe that the language I have held to the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has had some effect. I am assured that at a Council to-day the idea of making a last appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris was favourably entertained, and that war party is losing ground.

It would be of the greatest importance if I could suggest to the Turkish Government, with the authority of Her Majesty's Government, some course which might possibly be accepted by Russia, and induce her to suspend hostilities; but no time should be lost in doing so. Russian Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he has not yet had orders to leave Constantinople, but expects to receive them in the course of next week.

No. 358.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 21, 1877.

I LEARN that a Circular despatch was forwarded by Prince Gortchakow yesterday to Great Courts explanatory of Russian policy and preparatory to issue of Manifesto.

No. 359.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, April* 21, 1877.

FRESH outrages at Otchievo having been notified to me by Sir A. Buchanan on the authority of Mr. Evans, I have directed Freeman to go on from Glamosh to that place. He starts on Tuesday.

No. 360.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Adrianople:—

"Russian Consul has taken down Imperial coat of arms, and quitted Adrianople yesterday morning."

No. 361.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

FOLLOWING received from Consul at Erzeroum, dated to-day:—

"Russian Consul just left for Gumri; expedited departure, for fear of hostile manifestation on road. Flag not taken down."

No. 362.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April* 21, 1877.

THE new Turkish Ambassador says that if he could be assured that disarmament would be obtained by sending a Turkish Envoy to the Emperor Alexander on the plea of complimenting His Majesty in the usual way on his approaching the Turkish frontier, he would telegraph to advise the Sultan to take this step, and thinks His Majesty would do so.

He adds that French Minister for Foreign Affairs, although approving of idea, says that French Government cannot give the required assurance.

No. 363.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April* 22, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, French Minister for Foreign Affairs seems to think that the suggestion of the Turkish Ambassador comes too late and to be unwilling to have anything to do with it.

No. 364.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Rome, April 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Italian Government will willingly take part with the other Powers in mediation, if it is asked for by the Porte and accepted by Russia.

No. 365.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Vienna, April 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE acquainted Minister for Foreign Affairs with your Lordship's answer to Mr. Layard's telegram of yesterday as to an appeal by the Porte to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. His Excellency sees no probability of mediation being accepted by Russia, as he himself suggested at St. Petersburgh on the 18th instant, that negotiations might be renewed if the Porte would send Envoy to compliment Emperor Alexander on his arrival at Kischeneff, as would have been done under normal circumstances, and who should have power to negotiate an amicable arrangement of the question at issue between the two Governments; but Prince Gortchakow answered that Italian Government had already made abortive attempt at Constantinople to bring about a mediation, that it was now too late, and that Russian Manifesto had been despatched.

No. 366.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Berlin, April 22, 1877.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Emperor William intends to appoint Prince Reuss Ambassador to Constantinople on special service.

No. 367.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Galatz, April 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
HOBART PASHA arrived last night; leaves to-day. No civility shown him by authorities. He said to me, "If battery fires Galatz public buildings will be destroyed."
Two turret ships [have] passed.

No. 368.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Bucharest, April 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
ROUMANIAN Government maintain that under Austrian Convention military may be quartered on foreigners.
Our Declaration appears to me to relate merely to Customs duty, and has nothing to say to other conditions of the Austrian Convention.
I await your Lordship's instructions.

No. 369.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 22.)

Cettigné, April 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
PRINCE'S Secretary read to me confidentially this morning draft of a Circular to the Great Powers, justifying Montenegrin policy during the negotiations and declaring that

the Prince had wished to be conciliatory but that he could not abandon the Kutchi and the refugees.
Circular ends with the hope that Europe will succour the women and children in the event of the Turks overrunning the Principality.
I hope to receive the text in time for to-morrow's post.

No. 370.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1877, 11·30 P.M.
If, as appears from the statement of the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, reported in your telegram, there is reason to believe that the mission of an Ambassador from the Porte to meet the Emperor of Russia would be acceptable to Russia, the Porte would be well-advised to send one, and to let Russian Government know at once.
My telegram of yesterday will have informed you of views of Her Majesty's Government as to appealing to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris.
I have asked Lord A. Loftus if he knows of any course which would be accepted by Russia.

No. 371.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1877, 11·45 P.M.
WITH reference to the telegrams from and to Mr. Layard, repeated to you to-day, do you know of any course which could be suggested to the Porte which there is reason to believe would be accepted by Russia, and induce suspension of hostilities.

No. 372.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April* 6, 1877.
I HAVE the have the honour to inclose a translated copy of a telegram which the Pasha of Salonica received this morning from the Porte relative to the Circassian outrages in the district of Catterina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 372.

The Grand Vizier to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Télégraphique.) *Sublime Porte, le 5 Avril,* 1877.
LE Consul d'Angleterre à Salonique a télégraphié à son Ambassade que les Circassiens qui sont établis dans les environs de Catterina, à la suite du meurtre d'un autre Circassien, ont tué un Chrétien, et ont battu et imprisonné huit autres personnes qui furent relachées par l'autorité, et qu'il est à craindre que ces Circassiens ne se livrent à d'autres méfaits.
En conséquence vous êtes invité de faire les recherches nécessaires, et si cela est vrai, vous punirez les auteurs et vous prendrez les mesures nécessaires pour que à la suite ces choses ne se renouvellent pas, et vous nous communiquerez le résultat de vos investigations.

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[*] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 373.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 31. Political.)

Salonica, April 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Mr. Joceyln in reference to the rumour recently circulated here that many Christian inhabitants in the district of Allassona in Thessaly had taken to the mountains in order to escape from the excesses of the Turkish troops that are employed in pursuit of brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Salonica, April 7, 1877.

Sir,

ON the 1st instant I addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul Suter a telegram thus worded:—

"Report if it is true that many Christian inhabitants have fled from their villages in district of Allassona owing to misconduct of troops."

And this morning I received from Mr. Suter a letter dated yesterday, of which the following is an extract:—

"It is not true that many of the inhabitants of Allassona have fled from their villages, but true it is that the people of the villages of Apalat Col in that district suffer much from the soldiers who patrol constantly after brigands in those villages which are near Catterina."

M. Nicola Bizzo, the correspondent of this Consulate at Catterina, also reports in the sense of Mr. Suter's letter, in answer to the inquiries I addressed to him on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 374.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 23.)

(No. 13.)

Buda-Pest, April 14, 1877.

Sir,

I AM informed that the 60,000 Bosnian refugees cost the Hungarian Government about 200,000 fl. (16,000*l.*) a-month, and that, although they are half-starving on the pittance of 10 kr. (about 2*d.*) a-day each, the able-bodied will not work.

The Croatian Government wished to employ them in making some new roads, and many applications for labourers had been sent in, but the Bosnian refugee objects to work with pickaxes, spades, and shovels, to which he is not accustomed, declines to leave the frontier for towns and villages he does not know, and fears to endanger his salvation by labouring in heretical—that is, Roman Catholic—districts. Moreover, these refugees are so firmly attached to their organization in village communities, that they refuse to break up a community, or to move about without their women, children, and old people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 375.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 23.)

(No. 14.)

Buda-Pest, April 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, since my arrival here, the articles on the Eastern question in the "Pester Lloyd" and other newspapers are strongly anti-Russian.

To-day, in the semi-official "Ellenor," there is what is here looked upon as a "communiqué," which ends by saying that the rumours of an intended occupation of Bosnia are unfounded, and that any movement of Austria-Hungary will be "not in parallel, but rather in counter-action against Russia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 376.

Colonel Lennox, R.E., to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 42.)

Shumla, April 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for transmission to the War Office, the accompanying letters from the Military Attaché.

Copies will be submitted to Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure in No. 376.

Colonel Lennox, R.E., to Mr. Jocelyn.

Shumla, April 17, 1877.

Sir,

I FORWARD a few notes on the subject of Montenegro, its army, &c.

When, some time after my arrival at Constantinople, I received "The Ottoman Empire and its Tributary States," compiled by Captain W. S. Cook, 22nd Regiment, I found so many differences between the account of the Montenegrin army contained in it and the information I obtained while with the Montenegrins, that I delayed sending in any report until I had an opportunity of making further inquiries. My information was so utterly contrary to that given in great detail in a book, "Le Montenegro Contemporain," published by M. G. Frilley in 1876, that I considered it advisable to inquire more into the matter.

The Montenegrin who was charged by Nicholas, Prince of Montenegro, with working out the latest organization, viz., the Voivöde Stanko Radonich, having come to Constantinople, I have been enabled to verify and amplify my notes.

The area of Montenegro is about 1,557 square miles, and the population is stated to be, according to the latest calculation, 196,000 souls. In the capital, Cettingé, the number of inhabitants proper is about 400, but there are probably 600 people generally living in the place, taking into account the senators and their hangers-on, the men on military duty, and those who come to have their complaints inquired into.

There is not any standing army, but every able-bodied male is available for military service from the time he is fit to bear arms (said generally to be sixteen years) until he is fifty, and even after that he is liable until sixty years of age for service within the principality for the defence of its frontier.

Each man selected for service receives from the Government only a rifle, which remains in his possession until he reaches the age of fifty years; there is not any bayonet to the rifle. Men above fifty have arms issued to them only when called out for duty. The men take pride in keeping their arms in good order; they have to provide themselves with pouches, but the Government have given a good many. The men may carry any pistols, swords, and knives they possess, and always have, at least, the latter.

The army is formed as follows:—

A squad (esconade or decurion) consists of 10 men, under a corporal (caporal or desetear).

Two squads make a section, or vôd, which is under a serjeant (chef-de-section, or vôdnik).

Four sections form a company, or tchetta, under a captain called officier, or tchetnik, who is attended by a bugler. Each company has a colour, called drapeau or bariak, carried by an ensign (porte-drapeau, or bariaktar), and guarded by 5 corporals.

The company numbers 100 in all, made up thus:—

	Staff, &c.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Men.	Total.
Four sections	..	4	8	80	92
Escort for colours	..	..	5	..	5
Total armed with rifles	..	4	13	80	97
Bugler	1	..	..	..	1
Ensign	1	..	..	..	1
Captain	1	..	..	..	1
Total	3	4	13	80	100

There are 10 horses always on the roll of each company, but they remain with their owners during peace; during war they go with the company, 4 carrying ammunition and 6 tools, provisions, &c. These horses are taken charge of by each squad in succession for one month. Formerly, the women used to carry ammunition, food, &c., to the men on military duty, but now this is seldom necessary. An allowance is given to the owner of each horse during the time it is actually employed.

The colour of the company is red, with a white cross in the centre, of the shape shown in the photograph of the ensign's cap badge (No. 3).

The captain is bound to inspect the rifles every fortnight, and also to drill his company on all *fête* days, of which there are a large number.

The squads, sections, and companies are formed, as far as possible, of men living near each other; and, similarly, the battalions are composed of companies in the same neighbourhood.

The minimum number of companies for a battalion is 6, but the number varies from that up to 11, which is the maximum number, for when there are more companies in a locality two battalions are formed.

The staff of a battalion consists only of—

1. The commanding officer, chef-de-bataillon, or commander.

2. The sous-commandant, or pode-commandir, whose functions are said to be those of a capitaine-adjutant-major.

3. The battalion-intendant, who communicates with the intendant-general on the head-quarter staff. (During peace the battalion-intendant exercises the functions of officier-d'armes.)

4. There is also a man, who can hardly be called either a surgeon or an apothecary, to dress wounds, &c.; his title is voini liekar.

The officers are appointed by the Prince, and the non-commissioned officers by the commandir, on the recommendation of the captain. The whole of these officers and non-commissioned officers are of the same tribe or plemena as the men they command.

During peace there are not any officers superior to the battalion commanders.

A battalion can only be assembled for drill by order of the Commander-in-chief, the Prince.

The infantry consists of twenty-five ordinary battalions (see attached paper, 42 B) and of six battalions of the Guard, of six companies each, or a total of thirty-one battalions.

There is also a corps of Perianik for the purpose of furnishing the necessary guards over the Prince's palace. It numbers about 500 men, of whom about 100 are always at the capital, the rest being in their villages. They take the duty for a month at a time.

The Prince has further a body-guard ("Garde de Corps," or "Kabadavija"), of about 100 young men of good family. They rank as officers, and about 20 of them are said to be in waiting at the capital at a time.

There is 1 battalion of artillery, which consists of 4 batteries of 3 mountain-guns each (Austrian 3-pounder B.L. mountain-guns, I am told).

Each battery is composed in much the same way as the infantry company, but has 6 "vôds," or sections, instead of 4.

The battery numbers about 149 men in all, made up, it is believed, as follows:—

	Staff, &c.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Men.	Total.
Six sections	..	6	12	120	138
Three sub-division sergeants ..	..	3	..	..	3
Escort for colours	..	..	5	..	5
Bugler	1	..	..	..	1
Ensign	1	..	..	..	1
Captain	1	..	..	..	1
Total	3	9	17	120	149

The artillery do not carry rifles.

The guns are transported on pack animals, but there are sufficient men to carry the guns bodily if necessary.

The artillery are exercised by sections, and to enable this to be carried out the guns during peace are distributed about the country, one being in each locality where there is a subdivision of gunners.

The Montenegrins also possess 4 guns that they captured from the Turks with the fort of Medun. The guns are said to be 6-pounders, M.L.—2 steel and 2 iron.

I am told further that there is a company of "dynamidien," who have pack-horses with dynamite for the demolition of block-houses, &c.

The total strength of the Montenegrin army is stated to be between 18,000 and 20,000 men, but they say that they can form 12 battalions of Herzegovinians from among the refugees. These battalions would be inferior to the Montenegrin battalions, as they would not be composed of families and tribes under their own natural Chiefs.

As regards the medical department, the only properly qualified medical man in the country is the military doctor that France always keeps quartered at Cettigné to attend on the Prince and his family. This surgeon is relieved from time to time by another. There are in the country three native doctors, who have picked up some knowledge of the art from one or other of the French doctors. There is not any regular hospital establishment; but, as the Montenegrins naively remark, when war breaks out foreigners (usually or principally Russians) establish hospitals, sending medical men, and Sisters of Mercy as nurses. A few particulars relative to the hospitals during the last campaign, &c., are given on the attached paper.

There is said to be an Intendant-General at head-quarters, assisted by several officials. The battalion Intendant receives instructions from him, and he himself is under the orders of the Chief of the Direction de l'Administration Militaire.

As regards rifles, the total stock in Montenegro is said to be, 8,000 Kruka, 8,000 Wenzel, 12,000 Minié; 10,000 to 15,000 Sniders; and 1,500 Martini-Henry (captured from the Turks).

Each battalion has the same description of rifle, but battalions of the same brigade may, and often do, have different arms.

During time of war the battalions are formed in brigades, and the whole force is formed into 2 divisions ordinarily; the brigades and divisions are formed in accordance with the requirements of the case. From 2 to 5 battalions are joined for a brigade, and from 2 to 4 brigades are told off to a division.

The Brigadiers and Divisional Generals (called Brigadir and Divisioner) are not appointed until the time has come for war, when the Prince selects the men most suited for these commands from among the voïvôdes; this rule was adopted to prevent any ill-feeling from one man exercising during peace authority over another tribe or plemena, and also to prevent jealousy among the voïvôdes, who, of course, have to command men belonging to the tribes of other voïvôdes. (The title voïvôdes is considered by the Montenegrins to correspond with that of duke in other countries.)

The reigning Prince is the Commander-in-chief of his army, and during peace his only assistant is the Chef de la Direction de l'Administration Militaire, who is at present the Voïvôde Plamenac (uncle of the Plamenac who married the Prince's sister).

During the war last year the divisions were commanded as follows:—

Northern division by Voïvôde Vucotich; southern division by Voïvôde Bojo Petrovich, President of the Senate.

There were then 10 brigades of Montenegrins and Herzegovinians together, viz., 6 for Herzegovina, 2 for Albania, 1 for Tchernitza, and 1 for the Vasovich.

Each Divisioner is allowed a chief of the staff assisted by several officers, and each Brigadir has one staff officer.

Neither officers nor men wear any military uniforms, but all wear the national dress,

and the officers and non-commissioned officers are the only persons who have any distinguishing marks, and these are only badges on their caps. I inclose two sheets of photographs of the badges; the sheet with the dark background contains the company badges, which are all in silver.

1. The badge of corporal or desatiar is a cross above a seven-pointed star.

2. The serjeant or voduik's badge is a cross above a six-pointed star, which has two other six-pointed stars in the angles next the cross.

3. The ensign or baviaktar's badge is a cross resting on a sword and supported by the "colour."

4. The captain or tchetnik's badge is a shield with the Montenegrin arms resting on and supported by two crossed swords.

The sheet of photographs with the light background contains the badges of the superior officers.

5. The sous-commandant or pode-commandir's badge is nearly the same devise as the captain's, but larger; the shield with the arms is in silver, while the crossed swords are in gold, or gilt.

6. The commandir's badge is the same as the sous-commandant's with the exception of being all in gold, or gilt.

7. This badge of the Brigadir and Divisioner is a double-headed eagle, crowned, and resting on a lion; all of it is gold, or gilt. This badge is the same as that worn by the Senators of the Principality.

The artillery grades are distinguished by badges of a similar nature to those of the infantry, but they bear a gun on them.

With reference to the military establishments; at Obod, near Rieka, a small-arm establishment was formed in 1866; rifles have been converted there, but the place is chiefly used now for the repair of arms.

There is a cartridge laboratory at Cettigné, where they make up the rifle-ammunition, obtaining the powder, &c., from abroad.

There are thirteen ammunition magazines in the country, as shown in the annexed paper giving the battalions; the principal one is at Baïts, near Cettigné.

The army is an unpaid one, but during peace the officers and non-commissioned officers receive a travelling allowance when moving about on duty.

It has been generally stated that the military officers are *ex-officio* civil officers also, but this does not appear to be the case; the "officiers," or tchetniks, are sometimes, and the sergeants or voïniks and the corporals or desetiar are always, employed during the peace in a civil capacity, as also are some of the men as gendarmerie, and then they receive civil pay; while thus employed they are under the "Capitaine de Cercle."

Stotinjar is stated in some books to be the title of the officer in command of 100 men, but it is a purely civil title, said to correspond with that of Adjoint de l'Admistration Civile.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

APPENDICES.

(*a.*) Two sheets of Photographs of Military Badges.
(*b.*) List of Montenegrin Battalions and of Powder Magazines.
(*c.*) Hospitals during the late Campaign, &c.

MONTENEGRIN BATTALIONS.

No.	Plemena (or Nahia). Tribe (or District).	Nahia. District.	Powder Magazines.
I.	Cetinje and Njegusehi	Katunska	1. Baïts, near Cettinje.
II.	Tschekliti and Zrnze		2. Tschekliti.
III.	Bjelitza and Tschewo (or Osdrenitji) ..		3. Tschewo.
IV.	Grahowo and Rudine		4. Grahowo.
V.	Komani and Sagoratsch		
VI.	Pjeschiwzi		
VII.	Jouga Loukovo		
VIII.	Drobniak and Uskok		5. Drobniak.
IX.	Gornja Moratschka	Moratschka	6. Donja Moratschka.
X.	Donja Moratschka		
XI.	Liéra Rieka and Konioni	Wasojewitji	7. Wasojewitji.
XII.	Kraliani and Izaberdje	Gornji	8. Bratonosiji.
XIII.	Bratonosiji and Berskoutchinni ..	Rovtsi (qy.)	
XIV.	Rovtsi		
XV. XVI.	Zrnzi, Stjena, and Sawala	Piperska	9. Piperska.
XVII.	Petrouchinowichi	Bjelopawlitschka ..	10. Bjelopawlitschka.
XVIII.	Pavekowitchi		
XIX.	Wrashergernazi		
XX.	Ljeschanska Gornja	Ljeschanska.	
XXI.	,, Donja		
XXII.	Gratschaini, Ljubotin, and Dobrskosela ..	Rjetschka	11. Rjetschka.
XXIII.	Seklin and Kosieri		
XXIV.	Zrnnitschka	Zrnnitschka	12. Zrnnitschka Gornja.
XXV.			13. ,, Donja

The spelling is, as far as possible, according to Kiepert.

(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Shumla, April 17, 1877.

Notes on the Montenegrin Hospitals during the late Campaign, &c.

During the campaign in 1876 there were two general hospitals open at Cettigné, one in a building that was erected for a hospital by Prince Nicholas when his son was born, and the other in his old palace called the "Billiardo" (from the only billiard table there has ever been in Montenegro having been first put up there). These hospitals were under the Russian Red Cross Society, and at one time were supplemented by two large tents. There had also been a branch hospital at Negousch, but it had been broken up before December 1876.

There had been as many as ten doctors (all Russians, except one German, who only remained a short time), but the number was only seven when I was there in the beginning of December 1876. There were also one superior and nine other Sisters of Charity to assist in the hospitals.

Eight hundred wounded had been treated in the hospitals, the greatest number at one time being 200 in the month of September 1876.

The proportions per cent., I was informed, had been:—arme-blanche, 1; shell, 2; and musketry, 97. About 5 per cent. had died under treatment. There had only been four amputations, which was said to be a very small number, owing to the men almost preferring to die than to lose a limb.

When I visited the hospital there were eighty-four or eighty-six under treatment, of whom sixty-seven were wounded, one of the latter being a boy of fifteen, wounded while fighting.

The men were in many cases attended, while in hospital, by their relations, male and female.

The hospital rations were said to be—

Morning meal: coffee.
Mid-day meal: brandy, soup, meat, and a glass of wine.
Supper, at 9 or 10 P.M.: brandy, soup, fresh meat, and coffee.

I saw in the hospital one Turk who had had his nose and upper lip cut off. He had been there about two months. He appeared to be in very great pain, moaning "Allah! Allah!"

I was informed that the Montenegins had lost 800 or 900 killed, and that the Montenegrins and Herzegovinians together had about 2,000 killed and wounded. Only the seriously wounded are counted, as the men continue fighting, unless very badly wounded.

(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E., Military Attache.*

Shumla, April 17, 1877.

No. 377.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 152.) *Berlin, April* 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the condition of the Jews in Roumania, I understand that the German Government have invited the Roumanian Government to deal with the German Jews as with other German subjects, irrespective of creed or religious difference, and to admit them to equal rights in the future.

Under present circumstances, the Roumanian Government will scarcely be able to do justice to this suggestion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 378.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 153. Very Confidential.) *Berlin, April* 20, 1877.

My Lord,

THE semi-official "Provinzial Correspondenz" publishes the inclosed article on the prospects of the Turco-Russian war, and concludes that, if it can no longer be put off, "the Powers will no doubt use their best efforts to prevent the war from taking any larger extention."

I have been confidentially informed, on the best authority, that the Emperor has said to his Generals that if he could follow his impulses and act up to his conviction, he would materially assist his nephew the Czar and the cause of Christianity against the infidel Turk, but that he is bound for the present to adopt Prince Bismarck's opinions, who insists on the necessity of the neutrality of Germany—an opinion which, His Majesty adds, he personally looks upon as mistaken and ungenerous.

To judge from the general exultation in Berlin, from the Emperor to the youngest cadet, the war is really popular, and the hope that this time, at last, the Turk may be driven out of Europe and the Oriental question closed for ever, is openly and earnestly expressed even by persons in the most responsible positions.

Any attempt at the present moment to assist Turkey against Russia would be deeply resented by public opinion in Germany.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 378.

Extract from the "Correspondance Provinciale" of April 20, 1877.

LA question d'Orient est entrée dans une nouvelle phase décisive.

La Turquie a rejeté avec raideur les demandes des Puissances, exposées dans le Protocole de Londres du 31 Mars. Dans une Circulaire du Ministre Turc des Affaires Etrangères, en date du 9 Avril, la démarche des Puissances est qualifiée d'acte tout-à-fait injustifié et d'atteinte à la dignité et aux droits de la Turquie. Il est dit: qu'aucune considération ne saurait décider le Gouvernement Turc à se départir de sa résistance aux demandes du Protocole et l'empêcher de déclarer qu'il regarde cet acte diplomatique comme injuste au plus haut point et partant comme dénué de tout caractère obligatoire; que, dans sa résistance à des exigences hostiles, à des suspicions non justifiées, à des

atteintes ouvertement portées à ses droits, la Turquie sent bien qu'elle a devant elle une lutte pour son existence.

Vis-à-vis de cette déclaration c'est évanoui tout espoir que des négociations ultérieures puissent réussir.

En même temps des nouvelles sont arrivées de St. Pétersbourg et de Constantinople d'après lesquelles, du côté de la Russie, comme du côté de la Turquie, on se prépare en vue de la déclaration imminente des hostilités.

De St. Pétersbourg on mande que la Russie se voit forcée à agir par la situation actuelle; que la Turquie veut le conflit et pousse à la guerre; qu'en refusant aux Puissances Européennes le droit et la possibilité de réclamer et de garantir aucune réforme intérieure en faveur des Chrétiens de Turquie, la Porte a créé une situation complètement nouvelle; que la Russie a pendant cinq mois donné des preuves de ses intentions pacifiques; que la Turquie, au contraire, a repoussé toutes les occasions offertes de donner aux choses une tournure pacifique, qu'elle pousse à une décision par les armes; que la Russie, étant sous les armes, ne peut plus reculer.

Le départ de l'Empereur de Russie pour se rendre auprès de son armée, est fixé, dit-on, au 20 Avril.

Si la déclaration de la guerre entre la Russie et la Turquie ne peut plus ainsi être retardée, le commun effort pacifique des Puissances Européennes n'aura sans doute que plus résolument pour but d'empêcher de toute façon que la guerre ne prenne aucune extension plus grande.

No. 379.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord, *Berlin, April* 21, 1877.

THE Russian Government have asked the German Government to undertake the protection of Russian subjects in Turkey during the war, to which the German Government have agreed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 380.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 341.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 18, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 380.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Vienna, April* 14, 1877.

THE following passages from a conversation I have had of late with two men of note are not without interest at the present moment.

I look upon Baron Kühn as the probable Commander-in-chief in the event of Austria being committed to fighting. This general was successful in the Tyrol during 1866, and after reorganized the Austrian army as Minister of War.

From Baron Kühn I understand that Austria will avoid coming to blows with Russia at the present crisis, but the situation is one of deep anxiety, and it behoves the army to be prepared for any emergency.

I construe his idea to be that either a permanent Russian occupation of the Danube mouths, or more especially a formation of a group of Slav States, requiring the strip of seaboard known as Dalmatia, would constitute a *casus belli*, and with some warmth the General said "We can hope for no help from England. The people have an idea that it is an iniquity to help the unbelievers against the Christians; they will refuse to fight for

the Turks, and their policy will be to seize the Dardanelles and an island—say Crete—to cover the flank of the route through Egypt."

I infer also, from what fell from the general, that Austria will not wait for a *fait accompli*, and trust eventually to make favourable terms with Russia, but that she will take precautionary action.

As regards the prospects of the Turks, Baron Kühn told me that during the Crimean War he had done his utmost to prevent Austria from making an enemy of Russia, by warning her not to cross the Balkans. "I knew that Omer Pasha and his army could stop the Russians at the Danube. It was of no use raising any question about the Balkans. Now things are very different. The Russians will cross the Danube when and where they like, and the Turks possess no leader nor army capable of beating them."

General Klapka, an adventurer who raised a corps out of the Hungarian prisoners, intended, after Sadowa, in 1866, to attack Pest, *i.e.*, their own side, is now an old man, but has some authority in Council at Constantinople. He visits this country because the Turks at this moment decline to follow his advice in their conduct of the expected campaign.

The Turkish plan is to take Kalafat and assume the offensive with 35,000 men through Roumania; the defence in Bulgaria is to be one of fortresses and earthworks, with a reserve near Schumla.

Klapka wants an army of 100,000 Turks in the field to fight the Russian army of invasion, and objects to anything more than raiding by way of the offensive; and he warns the Turks against turning the Roumanians against them. The old man's advice as regards the army in the field of 100,000 is not sound, first, because there is no general nor staff to manœuvre such a force, and second, because the Turks are without train or intendance, and they will find great difficulty in feeding numbers concentrated. As regards Roumania, the Turks must hold Kalafat if they intend to retain Widdin, and this will at once offend the Roumanians, who, as fighting men, are of no account.

Klapka told me that he would suggest to the Austrian Government the occupation of Walachia, so as to isolate Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, 17*th Lancers*,
Military Attaché.

No. 381.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 345.) *Vienna, April* 19, 1877.

My Lord,

A TELEGRAM from Cattaro of yesterday, which has appeared in the public journals, reports that the Russian steamer "Kornilow" having received urgent orders while disembarking grain for Montenegro at that port to return to Odessa, sailed immediately, without being able to land 2,000 sacks of the cargo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 382.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 349.) *Vienna, April* 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. of this date, which I forwarded by post, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the second telegram, referred to in a telegram of to-day as having been received from Bucharest by the Roumanian agent.

It seems probable, from the inclosure, that the Roumanian Government has reason to hope that Russia will respect the neutrality of Kalafat if the Porte will agree to abstain from sending troops into Roumania, should that place be occupied by a Roumanian garrison.

I have not yet heard from M. Bratiano whether he has seen Count Andrassy as he expected this afternoon; but having met his Excellency, I have had some conversation with him on the subject, and he seems to doubt the probability of the Porte attending to any confidential representations which may be addressed to it, as, under the circumstances,

it is to be expected that it will follow the course, as far as it is legally entitled to do so, which it may consider the most effective for checking the advance of the Russian armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 382.

M. Cogalniceano to M. Balatchano.

(Télégraphique.) *Bucarest, le* 19 *Avril*, 1877.

LE passage de l'armée Russe étant admis par toutes les Puissances Garantes, nous devons nous entendre avec le Gouvernement Russe, pour régler plusieurs questions importantes qui s'y rattachent, et cela, non-seulement pour assurer au pays le maintien d'une administration nationale, mais encore pour épargner aux populations les charges d'une occupation hostile.

Nous tâcherons d'obtenir que Kalafat, occupé par les troupes Roumaines, soit respecté par l'armée Russe, afin d'enlever à la Turquie tout prétexte de passer le Danube. Mais est-il besoin de rappeler qu'aux termes d'un Article formel du Traité de Paris, il lui est interdit de le faire sans l'assentiment unanime des Puissances.

En vous réitérant mes instructions d'hier, je vous prie de solliciter, de la façon la plus pressante, l'intervention du Comte Andrassy. Veuillez lui assurer qu'aujourd'hui encore nous n'entendons ni nous allier à la Russie, ni que nos troupes coopèrent avec l'armée Russe. Si malgré cette assurance de notre part la Turquie envahit notre pays et y envoie des Bachi-Bazouks et ses Tcherkesses, le Traité de Paris, que nous avons toujours respecté, deviendra le drapeau sous lequel nous nous armerons pour repousser l'invasion Turque.

No. 383.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Corfu, April* 19, 1877.

IN the despatch which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 17th instant, No. 2, marked Private and Confidential, I referred to a hint I had received a short time previously respecting a report then current in Athens that Corfu was the head-quarters of a secret association for stirring up an insurrection in Epirus.

That an association for exciting the Christians in Albania to rebel against their Turkish masters has existed in Corfu ever since the inhabitants of Parga were transferred hither, now more than sixty years ago, is no secret to anyone at all acquainted with the history of the British Protectorate in these islands.

This association, composed of Parquinotes, encouraged by a few hot-headed natives, have been indefatigable in their attempts to spread disaffection towards the dominant race, with the undisguised purpose of ultimately effecting their expulsion from the province, and thus opening the way to their own return to the land of their fathers.

A more unprincipled race than those Parquinotes—for rescuing whom from the legitimate consequences of their habitual bad faith and contempt of Treaties, England, at the time, incurred so much obloquy—does not, I verily believe, exist on the face of the earth.

Their co-religionists in Epirus knew them too well to be misled by their insidious suggestions, even backed, as their exhortations to rebellion were, by frequent donations in the shape of money and arms. The money and arms were received with great protestations of gratitude; but the recipients, while accepting the donations, laughed in their sleeves at the donors, and despised them in their hearts.

I think I may assert, without fear of contradiction, that in no other portion of the Ottoman dominions did such harmony and general good feeling exist between Mussulmans and Christains as in Epirus.

By referring to a correspondence on this subject between Mr. Gladstone and Sir Patrick Colquhoun, which appeared in the "Times" of the 5th and 6th March last, the necessity of entering into minuter details will be avoided. With more than double the experience and opportunities of observation enjoyed by Sir Patrick, I hesitate not to affirm

that all his statements are amply borne out by facts. The satisfactory state of things he undertakes to describe continued up to the time of the cession of the islands to Greece.

Would I could say they still continue; but, unfortunately, all is now changed. In 1867 or 1868 Epirus was overrun by a band of Dervishes and Faquirs from Constantinople, who succeeded in stirring up the fanaticism of the Mussulman population so thoroughly that they have ever since regarded their Christian fellow subjects with a degree of hatred so intense that not only have the former friendly relations ceased to exist, but every opportunity seems to be seized of indulging in acts of oppression and violence.

I have now before me an extract from a Journal kept by the Russian Consul at Arta, in which no fewer than forty-five instances of arbitrary exaction and acts of violence, exercised by Turks on Christians, are registered as having occurred between the months of October 1875 and August 1876, in the districts of Arta and Prevesa alone. This document, in whatever way originally obtained, come honestly into my hands; but as Prevesa and Arta are beyond my jurisdiction, I did not feel at liberty to make any use of it at the time, and I only now presume to refer to it in support of my deliberate conviction that such a state of things cannot continue to exist for any length of time. Oppression will drive even a wise man mad; and the Christians in Epirus, although they resisted every temptation to join in the Greek invasion of 1854, are not again likely to let slip even a less promising opportunity of attempting to throw off a yoke which now weighs on them so much more heavily.

I may here venture to explain that it was my knowledge of the above circumstances which induced me to urge so strongly the appointment of a Vice-Consul for St. Maura, from whence, and from the adjoining Province of Acarnania, any movement for revolutionizing Albania is most likely to proceed.

I beg to apologize for having ventured to enter at such length into so unpleasant a subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 384.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 139.) *Rome, April* 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I ASKED Signor Melegari to-day if it was true that the Italian Consuls in Turkey, as stated in the papers, were to take charge of the Russian Consulates during the war between Russia and Turkey.

His Excellency replied that some years ago—he believed in 1864—an arrangement had been made between the Italian and Russian Governments by which the former had consented that in all places in the East where there was not a German Consul the Italian Consul should take charge of the Russian Consulate in the event of the absence of the Russian Consul; and consequently, in virtue of this arrangement, the Italian Consuls would take charge, in certain places in Turkey, of the Russian Consulates when the Russian Consuls were withdrawn on the outbreak of the war.

His Excellency added that the general protection of Russian subjects in Turkey would not be confided to the Italian Legation at Constantinople, but he believed to the German Embassy, although of course Italian Consuls entrusted with the care of Russian interests would act under the orders of their own Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 385.

Mr. Strachey to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 20. Confidential.) *Dresden, April* 20, 1877.

My Lord,

MURAD EFFENDI, who, after declining the Turkish Legation at Washington, has been appointed Minister at Stockholm and the Hague, has just returned from Constantinople, where he was in hourly communication with the Grand Vizier.

Murad called on me yesterday, and said that up to the announcement of the terms of the Protocol he had entertained hopes that a peaceable solution might be found. The

mere substance of that instrument was not altogether such as to preclude discussion, but its style was eminently calculated to exasperate the Porte; and standing as he did behind the scenes, he could confidently say that if the Protocol had been otherwise worded, it would not have been abruptly declined. Perhaps the principal mischief must be attributed to the Russian Declaration, which was considered to be more insulting than the Protocol itself.

Murad said that he saw the Sultan's Secretary immediately after the Protocol was communicated, and that the Sultan, he was told, remarked that Turkey had been treated with great indignity. Murad observed that, in his opinion, if the Ottoman Cabinet had showed symptoms of wavering in their resistance, they would have been murdered by the populace.

Murad Effendi said that the Sultan and his advisers were nevertheless fully aware that Turkey would this time stand alone in the conflict with Russia; and he named his friend, Edhem Pasha, as being specially penetrated by the belief that the Porte's isolation would continue to the end.

One element of the Turkish resolute adherence to their *non possumus* was the conviction that they are a match for Russia's utmost strength. The Turkish effective on the Danube is positively 210,000 of all arms. The idea prevails that the chief Russian efforts will be made at first on the Asiatic side; but there, as on the Danube, the Porte expects to hold its own.

I told Murad Effendi that I never heard of an army failing to pass a river; it was an admitted military fact that the operation must always succeed. The Russians would inevitably cross the Danube when they pleased, and might happen to beat the Turks, and drive them into the Balkans,—what would happen then?

Murad Effendi replied that he had no doubt that under such circumstances the Porte would make peace in any reasonable terms, for, it must be remembered, the Turks had little or no money, so that their power of fighting had its limits. He added that he had gone beyond most people in hopes of European help for Turkey, but that he had now few expectations of that kind. He agreed with Edhem Pasha that England would never move, and had almost given up his former faith in Austria. He added that the Grand Vizier did not ascribe to Russia any purposes of conquest of the old traditional sort; of the Russian plan of campaign the Turks had not been able to obtain a hint.

Murad Effendi, as I before mentioned, is a poet, but his conversation is prosaic and sober enough, and as his intimacy with the Grand Vizier is an undoubted fact, I thought it best to report his remarks for comparion with other accounts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

No. 386.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 300. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, April* 22, 1877.

KHALIL PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador, came to me yesterday afternoon, and said that he wished to show me the draft of a telegram which he thought of sending to the Sultan, if he should find himself able to do so.

The telegram began by saying that Khalil Pasha had found that public opinion in Europe had been very much turned against Turkey by the answer to the Protocol; that this answer seemed to include all the Powers, without in any degree discriminating between them, in one common reprehension, and was, indeed, looked upon as implying hatred not only towards Russia, but towards all the Great Powers alike.

The telegram went on to say that the pecuniary losses which had been entailed upon the holders of Turkish Stock had gone far to alienate the sympathies of Europe from the Porte; and it added some other considerations tending to show the danger of the state of isolation in which Turkey stood, and the importance of making an effort to avoid pushing things to extremity.

The telegram then argued that there would be nothing derogatory to the dignity of the Sultan in sending a special Envoy to Kescheneu to compliment the Emperor Alexander, as it had always been customary to send an Envoy for the purpose, whenever His Majesty approached the frontier of the Ottoman Empire.

Here the telegram stopped, but Khalil Pasha went on to say that he was quite ready to send it direct to the Sultan, if he could add to it an assurance that by taking this step

the Porte would obtain the consent of Russia to disarmament. He affirmed, moreover, that he was confident that the Sultan would, on receiving such an assurance, consent to send the Envoy.

He added that he had submitted this plan to the Duc Decazes, but that the Duke had said that the French Government was not in a position to give the acquired assurance.

I observed that I did not see how any Government, except that of Russia, could give such an assurance at the present moment.

A few hours afterwards I spoke to the Duc Decazes on the subject. He told me that he had remarked to Khalil Pasha that if his proposal had been made a fortnight ago it might have been of some avail, but that now it seemed to be altogether too late.

The Duke added that he did not think there was any such prospect of a good result as would render it advisable for France and England to thrust themselves ("se fourrer") into an affair of this kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 387.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 23.)

Constantinople, le 22 Avril, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

JE vous communique ci-après, pour votre information, le télégramme que son Altesse le Grand Vézir vient d'adresser à Son Altesse le Prince Charles :—

"La concentration de l'armée Russe sur le Pruth, les préparatifs ostensibles faits par la Russie en vue d'une action militaire, et d'autres indices non moins significatifs, ne peuvent laisser à votre Altesse, non plus qu'au Gouvernement Impérial, aucun doute sur le danger d'une situation sur laquelle la Sublime Porte avait déjà appelé l'attention du Gouvernement de votre Altesse, et qui semble menacer d'une invasion par les troupes Russes le territoire de la Principauté. Dans cette conjoncture, et conformément aux prévisions de l'Article XXVI du Traité de Paris, et du paragraphe 3 de l'Article VIII de la Convention du 19 Août, 1858, je viens, au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, inviter votre Altesse à se concerter avec la Sublime Porte en vue d'arrêter en commun les mesures militaires propres à assurer la défense du territoire de la Principauté en raison de l'éventualité dont elle pourrait être menacée.

"Je n'attends que la réponse de votre Altesse pour donner des instructions nécessaires à cet effet au Serdar Ekrem, Abdul Kérim Pacha, qui se trouve sur le Danube à la tête des armées Ottomanes, et avec lequel, en attendant, les autorités militaires de votre Altesse peuvent se concerter en cas d'urgence."

No. 388.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23, 2 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 23, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has received orders to suspend relations at once with the Porte, and I am informed that he will probably leave to-night, but up to this moment he has addressed no communication to the Turkish Government.

No. 389.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23, 3 P.M.)

Bucharest, April 23, 1877, 11·40 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SMALL detachment of Russian troops with officers arrived here this morning by railway from Jassy.

No. 386*.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 21 Avril, 1877.

My Lord,

VOTRE Excellence ne doit pas ignorer le manque de fondement de la nouvelle donnée par le correspondant du "Times" au sujet d'un élève de l'École Militaire, nommé Ali Nazmi, qui serait mort en subissant une prétendue punition de bastonnade, puisque Mr. Bourke a annoncé, le 16 de ce mois, à la Chambre des Communes que le Foreign Office avait reçu de Mr. Jocelyn une dépêche télégraphique démentant cette nouvelle.

Bien que j'eusse, de mon côté, donné dans le "Times" un démenti formel à l'assertion dont il s'agit, ce journal, en publiant une seconde lettre de son correspondant sur le même sujet, a fait observer que le moyen le plus sûr de constater que l'assertion de son correspondant n'est pas vraie serait la production de l'élève Nazmi vivant.

Or, il résulte d'une dépêche télégraphique officielle que je viens de recevoir de Constantinople que le Dr. Temple, Anglais, et Mr. J. Drew Gay, correspondant du "Daily Telegraph," ont été admis à voir l'élève Nazmi; qu'ils l'ont trouvé, ainsi que les autres détenus, en parfait état de santé; qu'ils ont constaté que l'étudiant prétendument mort, loin d'être l'objet du moindre mauvais traitement, jouissait de tout le confort possible; que Mr. Gay a même posé des questions aux prisonniers et qu'il se déclare satisfait de leurs réponses.

Il est évident que ce qui prouve avant tout que la Turquie n'est pas le pays tyrannique que le correspondant du "Times" veut représenter au public Anglais, c'est que cet écrivain, bien connu à Constantinople, y jouit d'une liberté et d'une hospitalité qui lui seraient refusées dans certains autres États s'il se montrait animé à leur égard des mêmes sentiments hostiles qu'il manifeste contre l'Empire Ottoman. Aussi ne devrais-je pas trop me préoccuper de ses attaques systématiques.

Si, cependant, je prends la liberté d'adresser à votre Excellence la présente lettre, et de la prier de vouloir bien en donner communication aux deux Chambres du Parlement, c'est parce que je remarque avec peine qu'il y a dans une partie du public Anglais une disposition regrettable à l'endroit de la Turquie, même parmi des personnes respectables qui, sans cesser de se montrer inexorables dans leur persistance à faire peser sur le Gouvernement actuel de la Sublime Porte la responsabilité d'événements déplorables survenus sous un autre régime, à la suite de menées et de provocations notoires et dans des circonstances indépendantes de la volonté du pouvoir central, accueillent avec avidité et confiance toute assertion malveillante de nature à dénigrer l'Empire Ottoman, et cela au point d'en faire l'objet d'interpellations parlementaires, et de mettre votre Excellence dans la nécessité de fournir des explications.

Je ne doute pas que votre Excellence ne voie dans la démarche que j'ai l'honneur de faire auprès d'elle à cette occasion une preuve des égards de mon Gouvernement pour l'opinion publique, et du haut prix qu'il attache à ce que ses actes soient appréciés avec justice et impartialité par la nation Britannique.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 390.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 23, 1877, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st instant, Persian Minister informs me that the arrangement he had come to with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for a Joint Commission to inquire into affair of Medina has been rejected by the Council, and that Turkish Government now insist upon sending a Turkish Commissioner only, a proposal which the Persian Government will not accept. I will speak again on the subject to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Persian Minister told me that he had full powers to conclude a Treaty with Turkey, offensive and defensive, and that he had mentioned the fact to the Sultan, but had not yet entered into communication on the subject with the Turkish Ministers. He confirmed what Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had told me with reference to the feeling in Persia against Russia; but he added that if the Turkish Government wished to avail themselves of it they must accede to the just demands of Persia.

No. 391.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

THE War Office wish to ascertain, if possible, from Philippopolis the condition of the country south of the Balkans, and what supplies it would be likely to afford to an invading army.

Try and obtain this information from the Consul, or by any other available means.

No. 392.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

THE Admiralty wish to know the state of preparation of the Russian ships in the Baltic.

No. 393.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 23, 1877, 1·50 P.M.

THE idea of suggesting to Sultan to send an Envoy to Kischeneff came from M. Nigra, but almost immediately after sending instructions to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, Italian Government learnt from Vienna that, in reply to an inquiry which had been made by Austrian Government as to whether the Emperor would receive Turkish Envoy, the Russian Government had said that it was now too late.

No. 394.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 23, 4·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 23, 1877, 3 P.M.

OFFICIAL telegram states that Emperor after review yesterday addressed officers and men, wishing them farewell and speedy and glorious return.

No. 395.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, 5·30 P.M.)

Bucharest, April 23, 1877, 3·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THIRD battalion of Russian brigade of railway service arrives at Jassy to-day. Turkish monitors are in position at bridge at Barbosh. Passage of the Pruth in force probable for to-morrow.

No. 396.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

Vienna, April 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I READ to-day to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a Memorandum on the present situation at Constantinople which I drew up from your telegrams of yesterday received this morning. He doubted the Italian proposal having been made with the sanction of Russia, and fears that unless immediate action has now been (? taken) by the Porte, the previous publication of a manifesto may prevent a Turkish Envoy being received by the Emperor Alexander. I said if the concessions of the Porte are complete, Russia could hardly put herself in the wrong by refusing them; and he answered that although Minister for Foreign Affairs would certainly do anything in his power to (? prevent) war, his Excellency fears that time is now too short for successful peace-making.

A Russian courier passed through Vienna this morning on his way to Italy, but the Ambassadors have not yet received Russian (? Circular).

No. 397.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

Berlin, April 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday to Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency says that the German Government will gladly co-operate with Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers if the Porte make the appeal announced by Mr. Layard, but it should be made at once before it is too late.

No. 398.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, April 23, 1877.

(No. 140. Confidential.)

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me confidentially a telegram which he had received from Count Andrassy, repeating the substance of a report from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople of the 21st instant.

It would appear that Safvet Pasha, after Mr. Layard's interview with him on that day, had stated that Mr. Layard had brought nothing but good wishes without making any promise, and that he had not suggested any means of escape from existing difficulties.

The question of the expulsion of Russian subjects from the Ottoman dominions, and that of the blockade of the Russian ports, were to be discussed to-day in the Council of Ministers.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires added that Safvet Pasha complained of the disagreement which existed among the Ministers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 399.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, April 23, 1877.

(No. 141. Confidential.)

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador told me confidentially this afternoon the substance of a telegram which he had received from Count Andrassy reporting the conversation you had had with his Excellency, of which an account is also given in your telegraphic despatch of yesterday.

Count Andrassy stated that you had informed him of Mr. Layard's interview with the Grand Vizier, and had said that the latter had declared war to be inevitable unless the Powers made an attempt to bring about an arrangement under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris; in which case Turkey would consent to disarm. That you had further informed him that Her Majesty's Government would be willing to join in such a step if the other Powers were disposed to do so, and Russia would consent.

Count Andrassy said that he had told you in reply that he had confidentially sounded the Russian Government some days ago, as to the possibility of an arrangement being come to, if the Powers advised the Porte to send an Ambassador on a complimentary mission to meet the Emperor at Kischeneff, giving such Ambassador power to treat the question of disarmament; but that Prince Gortchakow had replied that it was too late, and that such advice would have no chance of being accepted.

Under these circumstances Count Andrassy says that he fears a mediation on the basis of the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris would not only have no satisfactory result, but might occasion differences of opinion among the Governments concerned which would tend to interfere with the localisation of the war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 400.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, night.)

Constantinople, April 23, 1877, 4·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who informs me that he will address this afternoon, by order of his Government, a note to the Porte to the effect that all attempts of the Russian Government in accord with the Powers to bring about a solution of the pending difficulties having failed, he is directed to suspend diplomatic relations with the Turkish Government, and that he will leave Constantinople with the Embassy this afternoon. He added that he would tell me confidentially that he was instructed not to make any allusion to war. He expresses his personal opinion that there is no reason to apprehend immediate hostilities. The Emperor, he said, was paying a visit to his army at Kischeneff, and would probably continue his tour in other parts of Southern Russia.

I pressed him to give me his idea of what Russia might expect. He said, that without having any authority whatever to express an opinion, it seemed to him not impossible that if the Porte sent an Ambassador to meet the Emperor, who would state that Turkey accepted the Protocol of London, such a step might lead to some result; but he was by no means certain that it would.

On the whole, I judge from his language that Russia is still wavering. He told me that he should see the Emperor in a couple of days, and that he would inform him of my earnest desire to bring about a peaceful solution. I am doing all that I possibly can in every direction in the interest of peace.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs prepared the day before yesterday, after my interview with him, a Circular to the Powers, which, I am assured, was of a conciliatory character, but unfortunately warlike counsels prevailed, and it was decided at the Council not to send it. It was proposed instead to appeal to the Parties to the Tripartite Treaty to afford Turkey armed assistance, and to call upon Prince Charles categorically to declare his intentions with regard to the Porte, but no decision has yet, I believe, been come to.

I am to see the Sultan to-morrow, and I have hopes that the influence I have been able to bring to bear upon him has produced a favourable impression; but there are persons in the Palace who are doing their utmost to counteract it, and to induce him to precipitate the country into war.

No. 401.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, at night.)

St. Petersburgh, April 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen Prince Gortchakow.

His Highness, in reply to my inquiry in regard to any possible means of averting war, stated that it was too late, as the Russian troops were on the eve of marching.

He observed in regard to appeal to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris, that it had been already exhausted by Protocol of London, and he considered the Turkish Circular in reply to it as a declaration of war. His Highness added that sending an Ambassador to Kischeneff was useless, as the Porte was unable to make any suitable offer after its attitude and that of the Chamber in regard to the Protocol.

I gathered from his Highness' language that nothing short of an abject submission on the part of the Porte could avert hostilities.

An idea is prevalent here that the Porte, from a want of funds, cannot disband its army without danger to the country.

No. 402.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Canea, Crete, April 3, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 10 of the 31st ultimo I was led into error in stating that the Sultan in his Firman investing Samih Pasha with the Government of Crete disclaimed any intention of withdrawing the Organic Law of 1867. I have now the honour to inclose a translation of the Firman in question, from a perusal of which it will be seen that His Majesty speaks in vague terms on this subject, simply enjoining Samih Pasha to see to the due execution of the existing laws, thus leaving it in doubt whether the laws meant the new Turkish Constitution or the Règlement of Crete. His Excellency in his speech, contained in the same inclosure, made a laudable attempt to remedy this vagueness by defining the laws as those contained in the latter instrument, but this reference served to bring into stronger relief the uncertainty of the Sultan's words, and to awaken the jealousy of the Cretans about their rights. The Governor, however, has since put the seal of confirmation to his words by ordering the election for the Deputies of the General Assembly to take place at once, which should serve to convince the Christians that there is no immediate intention of cancelling their charter. One may be permitted to doubt, however, whether the Sultan's words were not intended as a feeler, and that, seeing that they excited distrust and resentment, Samih Pasha was instructed to make suitable qualifications.

Protests conceived in the same sense as that which accompanied my last despatch continue to pour in upon the Governor from all the districts and sub-districts of the island. There is the same ring of defiance about all of them, and they seem to herald graver troubles if Turkey be not speedily reconciled with her hereditary adversary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 402.

Firman.

(Traduction.)

A mon Vézir Samih Pacha, &c.

MON Vézir Achmet Mouktar Pacha, ci-devant Gouverneur-Général Civil et Militaire du Vilayet de Crète, l'a remplacé dans le commandement du 4ème Corps de l'Armée Impérial.

Comme par sa position l'Ile de Crète est une des provinces les plus importantes et les plus remarquables dans mes Etats, je désire et exige que tu veilles constamment et par tous les moyens possibles à la tranquillité, à la sécurité et au progrès de tous mes sujets habitant cette île, ainsi qu'à l'exacte et équitable expédition des différentes affaires conformément aux lois en vigueur.

Il est hors de doute que doué comme tu es des qualités requises et d'une capacité éprouvée et possédant une connaissance spéciale des affaires civiles et des lois et règlements militaires, tu ne négligeras rien pour la sage administration de mes troupes Impériales qui y sont cantonnées.

En vertu donc du Firman Impérial du 21 Mouharem, 1294, qui te confère le Gouvernement-Général Civil et Militaire de l'Ile de Crète, nous te confirmons par la présente dans ces mêmes fonctions.

La charge dont tu es investi non moins que la capacité et la sagesse qui te distinguent, exigent que tu parcourres personnellement de temps à autre le pays et que tu fixes ton attention sur la scrupuleuse application des lois promulguées par Ordonnance Impériale, afin qu'avec l'aide de Dieu tu réalises les heureux résultats qu'on est en droit d'en attendre. Tu dois aussi protéger et défendre sous mon égide tutélaire mes sujets et habitants de toute classe et commander mes troupes Impériales dans l'île, en consacrant tous tes efforts à leur tranquillité et leur bien-être, ce qui contribuera à accroître ma bienveillance à ton égard. Tu auras aussi à informer ma Sublime Porte de toutes les affaires de quelque importance.

Discours prononcé par Samih Pacha, après la lecture du Firman qui précède.

Concitoyens,

Vous connaissez déjà toute la teneur du Firman Impérial qu'on vient de lire. Les bonnes intentions de Sa Majesté Impériale en ce qui concerne la prospérité de ses sujets sont très élevées, et bien que son heureux avènement au Trône soit tout récent, Sa Majesté a toujours donné des preuves éclatantes de ses bienveillantes dispositions en proclamant la Constitution, en abolissant le pouvoir absolu, en soumettant les affaires de l'Etat et de la nation au suffrage universel, en instituant le Sénat, la Chambre des Députés, et en perfectionnant tout ce qui pourrait concourir à ce but. Avec l'aide de Dieu les heureux résultats de ces efforts seront bientôt connus de tous, et le temps fera sentir l'utilité de tous ces bienfaits.

Je vous annonce avec plaisir que conformément au Firman Impérial dont il a été donné lecture et aux ordres Impériaux que j'ai reçus verbalement de Sa Majesté, je ferai tous mes efforts pour appliquer strictement les lois organiques de la Crète, pour faciliter le progrès de l'île et obtenir tous les moyens propres à développer l'agriculture et le commerce qui doivent procurer tant d'avantages au pays. Je vous préviens en même temps que le montant du quart de dîme dont il avait été fait remise sera versé dans la caisse de la banque agricole, et que je prendrai les mesures nécessaires pour aplanir les difficultés qui surgissent entre créanciers et débiteurs dans l'île.

La voie que j'avais suivie pendant ma première administration m'a, comme vous savez, fait connaître à fond les besoins du pays.

En attendant j'aime à espérer que vous m'accorderez votre assistance morale et matérielle dont j'aurais besoin pour l'accomplissement de ma tâche. Que le Très-Haut veille sur Sa Majesté et couronne tous nos efforts!

No. 403.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 12. Political. Confidential.)

Canea, Crete, April 7, 1877.

My Lord,

THE communications which I have had the honour of addressing to your Lordship since my return to my post in February will have sufficed to make it clear that these islanders are prepared to revolt against the authority of the Sultan should a chance o doing so be afforded them by the breaking out of war between Russia and Turkey. All the Cretan Christians are unanimous on this point, and the question as to what form of Government they shall decide to demand in case the longed-for struggle should be crowned with success (of which they do not entertain a doubt), naturally engages much of their attention.

It would appear that there are two parties in the island, one of which desires to see Crete form an integral part of the Hellenic Kingdom, while the other would prefer that it should form a Principality, with England as the protecting Power. These two parties are very unequal in numbers and weight of authority, the most influential Chiefs being of opinion that they will best consult the interests of their country by entrusting them to the care of Her Majesty's Government.

Their opinion has gained additional force from the policy pursued by the Greek

Government during the whole period of disturbance, a policy the leading idea of which they consider to have been that more is to be gained by a waiting game than by attempting by force of arms at getting rid of the Turkish rule, and nothing could be more calculated to lower the Greek Government in the eyes of a high-spirited people than such pusillanimous teaching. They are persuaded, on the contrary, that it required but the participation of the Greek nationalities in the common struggle to have reduced the Porte to ruin.

This lukewarmness of Greece has lost them much of the sympathy which the ties of a common language and religion could not fail to create, while the spectacle of the constant bickerings and endless intrigues in the Athenian Chamber has further convinced them that they have nothing to hope from a political connection with Greece.

Corresponding to these two parties there are, I am informed—but here I would speak with more reserve—two Committees at Athens formed principally of Cretans, who are either refugees or established in business there. The more influential of these Committees favours the idea of putting Crete under the protection of Great Britain, and it is said that it has at its disposal funds sufficient to purchase several thousand breech-loaders when the moment for action arrives. Nor are the Cretans themselves inert in preparing for the possible rising.

I am confidentially informed that several small vessels have, during the last two months, sailed from Syra with cargoes of gunpowder. Each vessel lands under cover of darkness, on some unfrequented part of the coast, 100 or 150 barrels, containing about 30 lbs. of powder each, which are quickly carried off by the mountaineers on their shoulders and concealed in the caves which abound in the limestone rocks. The trade is purely a commercial speculation, the powder selling at double its market value, and the local authorities appear to have no suspicion of its existence.

The natives having just gathered in a good olive crop, and not being obliged by a weak Government to pay their debts, have now considerable sums at their disposal, which they are thus investing in warlike stores.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 404.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 13. Political.)
Canea, Crete, April 9, 1877.

My Lord,

NEWS having reached the Governor-General that a great gathering of Christians is to be held on Easter Tuesday (to-morrow) for the purpose of taking the Oath of Brotherhood, his Excellency dispatched on the 6th instant 500 Nizam troops to the intended place of meeting.

This is an upland plain called Omalo on the borders of Selino and Sphakia, and it is expected that 1,000 or 1,500 men will flock thither from those districts and from the large Christian villages of Lakos, which is notorious for the turbulent character of its inhabitants.

A long-standing dispute about the right of pasturing their sheep in the plain has estranged for many years the Lakiotes and Seliniotes, and it is surmised that the meeting has been called together, if not to settle the dispute, at least to bring about a temporary reconciliation.

It is not yet certain whether the Sphakians, who have a separate but trifling quarrel with the men of Lakos, will put in their appearance at the meeting, but I hear that earnest endeavours are being made to induce them to do so.

The news of the gathering, which is organized on a grander scale than usual, is spreading alarm among the Mussulmans of Selino, at whose instance it is that Samih Pasha has been induced to dispatch the troops. As there are 200 regular soldiers always stationed in a block-house at Omalo, it would appear that the sending of so many troops is a measure out of proportion to the importance of the movement, and calculated to alarm quite as much as to tranquillize the peaceable inhabitants.

As Easter is a season of great rejoicing, which finds expression in drinking deep and in the explosion of fire-arms, there is a fear lest, in the present excited state of public feeling, the sight of these Anatolian soldiers may bring about some untoward demonstration. The

Christian Chiefs, however, have hitherto behaved with so much prudence that there is every hope that they will be able to restrain the enthusiasm of their followers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 405.

Vice-Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 1.)
Mostar, April 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Circular of the 27th March, instructing me to be especially careful in investigating and reporting any acts of violence or outrages on the Christian inhabitants of this province that may come to my knowledge, and authorizing me to charge in my public accounts the expense which I may incur in visiting any places for the purpose of verifying the truth of the reports which may have reached me.

I shall not fail to implicitly comply with your Lordship's instructions; but I am happy to be able to report that since my return to my post I have not been able to learn that any such occurrences have happened of late in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 406.

Mr. Erskine to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 33.)
Stockholm, April 20, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Stockholm papers have recently announced that Murad Effendi, now Turkish Consul-General at Dresden, would shortly be accredited at this Court in the capacity of Minister-Resident.

In the last number of the "Schwedisch-Norwegische Correspondenz" a statement has appeared on this subject, which I have no doubt has been inserted by order of General Björnstjerna.

This article begins by explaining that quite recently the Turkish Government intimated its intention to appoint a Minister Resident at Stockholm, and inquired of the Swedish Minister at Constantinople whether Murad Effendi would be agreeable to the King. Although the diplomatic relations between the two countries had hitherto been conducted in a satisfactory manner by the Swedish and Norwegian Representative at Constantinople, there was no reason for objecting to the proposed arrangement or to the person selected, who is said to be in all respects unexceptionable, and to have distinguished himself both as a Government official and a writer.

"The above-mentioned appointment has now, however, been spoken of by a correspondent of the French paper 'Liberté' (in its issue of the 9th instant) in terms which we feel bound to contradict.

"The correspondent begins by the altogether unfounded assertion that the nomination in question had given rise to negotiations between His Majesty King Oscar and the Sultan. The fact is, as we have ascertained from the best source, that neither the Government of the United Kingdoms nor their Sovereign had the least suspicion of the intention to appoint a Turkish Minister at Stockholm until the moment of the receipt here from Constantinople of the inquiries respecting Murad Effendi.

"The fact is alone sufficient to put an end to all the comment with which the zealous correspondent has accompanied the nomination to which he attaches 'great political importance.' That under existing circumstances there can be no solidarity between the United Kingdom and the Sublime Porte must be self-evident; any special assurance on this head would therefore appear superfluous.

"In the event of a now apparently unavoidable war between Russia and Turkey, the United Kingdom, as it is to be hoped all other European Powers, will be called upon to observe the strictest neutrality. That, in one case, this neutrality will be scrupulously maintained, hardly requires a special assurance addressed to our neighbour across the Baltic."

As the Swedish Government appear to have availed themselves of this opportunity to make a semi-official declaration of neutrality in the approaching struggle in the East, it has appeared to me desirable to give this declaration *in extenso*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 407.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, April 24.)

(Circulaire.)
St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{1}{19}$ Avril, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE Cabinet Impérial a épuisé, depuis l'origine de la crise Orientale, tous les moyens en son pouvoir afin d'amener, avec le concours des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe, une pacification durable de la Turquie.

Toutes les propositions successivement faites à la Porte à la suite de l'entente établie entre les Cabinets ont rencontré de sa part une résistance invincible.

Le Protocole signé à Londres le $\frac{12}{24}$ Mars de cette année a été la dernière expression de la volonté collective de l'Europe.

Le Cabinet Impérial l'avait suggéré comme une tentative suprême de conciliation. Il avait fait connaître, par la déclaration portant la même date et accompagnant le Protocole, les conditions qui, loyalement et sincèrement acceptées et exécutées par le Gouvernement Ottoman, pouvaient amener le rétablissement et la consolidation de la paix.

La Porte vient d'y répondre par un nouveau refus.

Cette éventualité n'avait pas été envisagée par le Protocole de Londres. En formulant les vœux et les décisions de l'Europe, il s'était borné à stipuler que dans le cas où les Grandes Puissances seraient déçues dans leur espoir de voir la Porte appliquer avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, elles se réservaient d'aviser en commun aux moyens qu'elles jugeraient les plus propres à assurer le bien-être de ces populations et les intérêts de la paix générale.

Ainsi les Cabinets avaient prévu le cas où la Porte ne remplirait pas les promesses qu'elle aurait faites, mais non celui où elle rejetterait les demandes de l'Europe.

En même temps la déclaration faite par Lord Derby à la suite du Protocole a constaté que, comme le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'avait consenti à la signature de cet acte qu'en vue des intérêts de la paix générale, il devait être entendu d'avance que dans le cas où le but proposé ne serait pas atteint, et notamment le désarmement réciproque et la paix entre la Russie et la Turquie, le Protocole serait considéré comme nul et sans valeur.

Le refus de la Porte et les motifs sur lesquels il est fondé ne laissent subsister aucun espoir d'une déférence de sa part aux vœux et aux conseils de l'Europe, ni aucune garantie de l'application des réformes suggérées pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes; ils rendent impossibles la paix avec le Monténégro et l'exécution des conditions qui pouvaient amener le désarmement et la pacification. Dans ces conjonctures, toute chance est fermée aux tentatives de conciliation. Il ne reste d'autre alternative que de laisser se prolonger l'état de choses que les Puissances ont déclaré incompatible avec leurs intérêts et ceux de l'Europe en général, ou bien de chercher à obtenir par la coërcition ce que les efforts unanimes des Cabinets n'ont pas réussi à obtenir de la Porte par la persuasion.

Notre auguste Maître a résolu d'entreprendre cette œuvre, que Sa Majesté avait convié les Grandes Puissances à poursuivre en commun avec elle.

Elle a donné à ses armées l'ordre de franchir les frontières de la Turquie.

Veuillez porter cette résolution à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

En assumant cette tâche, notre auguste Maître remplit un devoir qui lui est imposé par les intérêts de la Russie dont le développement pacifique est entravé par les troubles permanents de l'Orient. Sa Majesté Impériale a la conviction de répondre en même temps aux sentiments et aux intérêts de l'Europe.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 408.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha April 24.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 23 Avril, 1877.

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Russie m'a adressé aujourd'hui une note pour m'annoncer qu'il a reçu l'ordre de son Gouvernement de rompre les relations diplomatiques avec la Sublime Porte, de quitter Constantinople avec le personnel de l'Ambassade, et de retirer les Consuls Russes établis en Turquie. M. Nelidow est déjà parti avec le personnel de l'Ambassade. La Sublime Porte a faite tout son possible pour éviter une pareille extrémité; mais, devant l'initiative prise par la Russie, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de prescrire, de son côté, à l'Ambassade Ottomane à St. Pétersbourg et à tous ses Consuls en Russie de retourner à Constantinople.

No. 409.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
Cairo, April 23, 1877.

WARNING has been given to the Viceroy both by my French and Russian colleagues, that any assistance to Turkey will probably be punished by reprisals, such as blockade of Egyptian ports, &c. On the other hand the Viceroy has been peremptorily summoned by the Porte to state immediately what number of men he will send. Surely any pressure of the Powers should be employed at Constantinople to prevent demand for assistance, rather than upon the Viceroy who can scarcely refuse it.

No. 410.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 24, 1877, 10 A.M.

NOTHING whatever has been done towards constructing the lines for the defence of Constantinople and Adrianople. Turkish Government allege that they have no money for the purpose. I have this on the best authority.

I venture to suggest that Sir A. Kemball should be now placed directly under my orders. In case of war he might be sent to Erzeroum and the Armenian frontier.

No. 411.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, 5·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 24, 1877, 2 P.M.

I HAVE just learnt on good authority that the Porte has accepted the proposal to appeal to the Powers for mediation under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

No. 412.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
Baghdad, April 24, 1877.

MESSENGER arrived. Persian regular troops at Kermanshah not withdrawn; eighteen guns and ten regiments infantry in camp outside town. Kurdish militia ordered to Senendu (Sehna?).

No. 413.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 3 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877, 1·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THIS morning's paper publishes an Imperial Manifesto, stating all pacific efforts on the part of Europe having failed, the Emperor of Russia is obliged to redeem his pledge given at Moscow, and orders his troops to cross Turkish frontier.

Prince Gortchakow's Circular to Russian Representatives at Great Courts, referred to in my telegram of 21st instant, is also published.

Both documents will be probably communicated to your Lordship to-day by Russian Ambassador.

No. 414.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 3.15 P.M.)

Galatz, April 24, 1877, 11·20 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
TWELVE thousand Russian troops crossed last night at Bolgrad, 5,000 at Jassy.

Roumanian troops have left Jassy.

No. 415.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 3·45 P.M.)

Bucharest, April 24, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
PROCLAMATION made to-day by the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Roumanian people that the Russian army will pass to-day on to Roumanian territory to fight Turks. Passage of the Pruth certain to-day, 24th April.

No. 416.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877, 4·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegram of the 23rd, respecting the statements made to you by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, has been treated as Confidential, and not repeated to St. Petersburgh or other Embassies.

No. 417.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
HER Majesty's Government approve your exertions for peace, as reported in your telegram of 23rd instant.

No. 418.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

Vienna, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE informed Under-Secretary of State that the Governments of Germany and Italy will both co-operate with Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers if the Porte makes an appeal under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. The intelligence received here from Constantinople, however, gives little hope of Mr. Layard's recommendations being adopted by the Turkish Government.

No. 419.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of this day you may tell Mr. Monson he may go to Scutari. He probably need not remain longer in Montenegro now war is declared by Russia, unless he thinks it necessary.

No. 420.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 6 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
COLONEL WELLESLEY states that the mobilization of the 20th, 21st, and 38th Infantry divisions is ordered. Entire regular army in the Caucasus is thus now mobilized. It is supposed that Batoum and Trebizond will be captured.

Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, with the personnel of the Embassy, leave to-morrow.

No. 421.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives in Europe, Tehran, and Washington, and to Her Majesty's Consuls at Belgrade, Bucharest, Cairo, and Cettigné.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE received to-day from the Russian Ambassador the Russsian Circular.

It refers at length to the Protocol as having been suggested by Russia as a last attempt at conciliation.

The refusal of the Protocol by the Porte leaves no hope of Turkey deferring to the wishes of Europe, or any guarantee for application of reforms.

Nothing remains except to let this state of things continue, or to obtain by force what the Powers have failed to obtain by persuasion.

The Russian armies are ordered to cross the Turkish frontier. In assuming this task, the Emperor fulfils a duty which is imposed on him by the interests of Russia, whose pacific development is injuriously affected by the continual troubles of the East.

No. 422.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

Bucharest, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
ROUMANIAN forces have left Kalafat and Galatz, and cover the capital.

Twelve thousand Russians crossed last night at Bolgrad. Russian passage has been effected without giving any notice whatever to Prince Charles or Government of Roumania.

Latter much disconcerted by this absence of consideration.

No. 423.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 144.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of to-day's date, reporting the desire expressed by Prince Nicholas of Montenegro that Mr. Monson should proceed to Scutari in order to see the Turkish Commander-in-chief, I have to request you to inform Mr. Monson that he is authorized to make the proposed journey.

There will probably be no further occasion for his presence in Montenegro since the outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey, and your Excellency will accordingly

acquaint him that he is at liberty to leave the Principality unless he should see good reason for remaining there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 424.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and left me a copy of the Circular despatch from Prince Gortchakow dated the $\frac{7}{19}$th instant, of which a copy is inclosed herewith.

His Excellency was not instructed to offer any observations upon it, and I thought it better to defer any discussion of its contents until I had had leisure to give it fuller consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 425.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 149. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

AFTER delivering to me Prince Gortchakow's Circular, Count Schouvaloff spoke to me unofficially on a subject which had been mentioned to him, as he said, by some one connected with the Russian Navy. He had been informed that there were two ships of war now lying in some English port, which were in process of construction for the Turkish Government. He did not know, he said, whether according to international usage he should have any right to object to their being fitted out for the Turkish service. He mentioned the subject to me privately and in a friendly manner, not wishing to make an official demand which international law would not sanction.

I said I would discuss the matter with his Excellency on a future opportunity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 426.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 150. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

AFTER the conversation with Count Schouvaloff mentioned in my despatch No. 149 of this day's date, I took the opportunity of speaking to Count Schouvaloff, in the same unofficial manner, as to a report which had reached me of a possible blockade of the Egyptian coast by a Russian fleet, with a view to prevent assistance being sent by the Khedive to the Sultan. I pointed out that although such a proceeding might be justifiable according to international law, it involved political considerations which could not be wisely overlooked. A blockade of Egypt would involve the stoppage of the Suez Canal, and the consequent interruption of direct communication between England and India. It was not necessary to point out the inconveniences which would follow, or the state of feeling which would be produced in this country.

Count Schouvaloff said that he had heard nothing of any such intention as that ascribed to his Government, and he had no hesitation in characterizing it as a pure invention ("canard affreux"). He pointed out that, apart from other considerations, Russia had no fleet in the Mediterranean with which to undertake such an operation in presence of the powerful Turkish navy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 427.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 273.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

I APPROVE the instructions given by you to Her Majesty's Consular Officers in Turkey, as reported in your despatch No. 272 of the 9th instant, directing them to be careful in investigating and reporting any cases of disturbances and outrages that may come to their knowledge.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 428.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 274.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 278, Confidential, of the 9th instant, I approve the language employed by you at the interviews which you recently had with the Grand Vizier and the Foreign Minister, with a view to induce the Porte to comply with the conditions of the Russian Declaration which accompanied the Protocol of the 31st of March.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 429.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 13.)
Sir. *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

I APPROVE the exertions which, according to the report of your proceedings given in your telegram of yesterday's date, you are making in the interests of peace.

I am, &c
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 430.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Blunt.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 29 of the 2nd instant, I have to instruct you to express to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney my approval of his proceedings with regard to the case of a Christian girl who had eloped with a Redif and embraced Mahommedanism, as reported in his letter to you dated the 24th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 431.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1877.

THE German Ambassador asked me this afternoon whether Her Majesty's Government had been asked by that of Roumania to send gun-boats to the River Danube for the protection of Galatz and Braila from attack and devastation by the Turkish forces.

I told his Excellency that no such request had been made, and that had it been so I should not have considered that it was one with which we could comply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 432.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 24, at night.*)

Constantinople, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Grand Vizier has asked my advice as to requesting Her Majesty's Government to take Turkish subjects and interests in Russia under their protection. I have thought it better to advise him not to do so, but rather to address himself to a Power not interested in the questions pending between Turkey and Russia.

His Highness also asked my advice as to ordering Russian subjects to quit Turkish territory. I replied that I thought it would be more prudent and dignified to inform them that they should be protected so long as they conform to the laws.

No. 433.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 24, at night.*)

Constantinople, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE determination to appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris was come to after a severe struggle with the war party last night, and Musurus Pasha was ordered to make the appeal to your Lordship at once.

I presume that he has done so to-day. It may be important to observe that the appeal was decided upon in conformity with terms of Article before Russia had declared her intention to go to war and had sent troops into Moldavia.

No. 434.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 24, at night.*)

Constantinople, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

A TELEGRAM just received from Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh states that Prince Gortchakow has addressed him a note to the effect that grave discussions which the Russian Cabinet has been under the necessity of having with the Porte, with a view to a durable pacification of the East, not having brought about the understanding desired, Emperor finds himself compelled to have recourse to force of arms. Chargé d'Affaires is requested to inform the Turkish Government that Russia considers herself from this day in a state of war with Turkey, and that, consequently, diplomatic relations cease.

Prince Gortchakow adds that Turkish subjects who desire to remain in Russia are fully assured of the protection of the laws.

Grand Vizier states to me that Russian troops have crossed to-day into Moldavia, and have advanced upon Jassy, and that the Roumanian troops have retired.

He represents urgently that Russia has acted without any previous proclamation of war, and he informs me that the Turkish fleet will be at once sent into the Black Sea.

No. 435.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 24, at night.*)

Salonica, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL for Russia here has struck his flag and leaves.

Russian subjects remain under French Consul.

No. 436.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 24, at night.*)

Tiflis, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WAR declared here to-day. Ottoman Consul awaits answer to his last telegram from Constantinople; his services merit every consideration from his Government; please communicate this to Turkish authorities.

Despatch No. 55 sent.

Turks here said to have assumed offensive.

No. 440*.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

Constantinople, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAD a public and private audience to-day of the Sultan. His Majesty in the latter expressed to me his earnest desire for peace, saying that he was not a man capable of crushing an ant under his foot, and that if Russia would only disarm one battalion he would at once disarm ten. His assurances were in all other respects very satisfactory, and several circumstances prove that peaceful counsels were beginning to prevail. It is consequently most unfortunate that Russia has forced on hostilities. The telegram to that effect was received late this afternoon, after my audiences of the Sultan and Grand Vizier. The Turkish Government are convinced that Russia has been determined from the first to force them into war, and that no course they could have pursued would have prevented it. The Sultan told me that although he was prepared to make any sacrifice consistent with the dignity and independence of his Empire in the interest of peace, he would, if attacked, defend himself to the very last, and that he had the most complete reliance upon the courage and devotion of his troops. He spoke with much determination, but in a tone of sorrow and almost despair which was very touching.

No. 437.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 24, 1877.*

SOME Cossacks have arrived.

No. 438.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 24, 1877.*

NEWS of Turkish troops having entered Orosel on Sunday is confirmed. Inhabitants, however, as well as those of other villages, have all withdrawn to more inaccessible places.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 439.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877, 9 P.M.*

I AM informed that before even the publication of the Manifesto Russian railway battalion entered Jassy yesterday, and that Police, Telegraph, and Postal Departments are already in Russian hands. Two Turkish gun-boats threaten to blow up the railway bridge leading over the Sereth at Galatz.

No. 440.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1877.*

IN case news of entry of Russian troops into Moldavia is confirmed, do Her Majesty's Government wish me to get Turkish Government to invite fleet to Constantinople in virtue of IInd Article of Treaty of 1871?

It is very important there should be one or two fast boats stationed here. We have now only the "Rapid" and "Antelope," which have no speed at all.

No. 441.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroom, March 26, 1877.*

I BEG to inclose copy of a telegram, partly in cypher, I have just sent to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

It appears that yesterday a portion of a battalion stationed at Souk Tchermik, a village three miles from Erzeroom, insisted—not from necessity, as quarters for the men had been made ready, but from a desire to insult the Christians—that the chapel of the village be given up to them. The priest, finding he could not resist, gave up the key, when a certain number of men were told off by the commanding officer to occupy it as a lodging.

Information of this sacrilege reached the Armenian Bishop at about 1 o'clock yesterday, and seeing there was time to prevent the desecration, at once informed the Vali, but his Excellency, instead of immediately sending to arrest the responsible officer and giving the chapel back to the priest, replied that he was too busy to occupy himself with the affair, but would inquire into it to-day.

The Armenian Bishop has informed the Governor-General officially that he intends telegraphing the case to Constantinople.

When Ismael Pasha was appointed to the Governorship of this province, I reported the character he bore, in the hope that the Porte might be induced to make a wiser selection; this, however, was not done, and the apprehension I entertained of this province falling into serious disorder under his rule is rapidly being realized.

I have had ample opportunities of judging Ismael Pasha's abilities, and of estimating his capacity for governing, and I am obliged to state that a worse administrator, a more listless, ignorant, and untruthful man it would be difficult to find.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB

Inclosure in No. 441.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Jocelyn.

Erzeroom, March 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TROOPS stationed at Souk Tchermick, village three miles from Erzeroom, desecrated Armenian church yesterday by making barrack of it, although houses sufficient were given. Governor had timely notice, but did not act.

The following in cypher:—"Governor-General utterly incapable; if not immediately removed disorder will rapidly increase."

No. 442.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

Erzeroom, April 2, 1877.

(No. 22. Political.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to the desecration of the chapel at Souk Tchermick, I have to inform you that the Governor-General did, on the night the soldiers took forcible possession of it, send a police officer to order them to leave it, but by a misunderstanding the officer went to another village.

On finding this wanton act would probably lead to inquiries, the authorities got up a masbata (declaration), which, after being signed by the head Mussulman, was presented to the Christian chief men of the village. These men, being told that the document was a simple declaration that the chapel had been restored to the Christians, signed the paper. The declaration, however, states that the chapel was not taken by the soldiers, but that it had been voluntarily offered by the Christians.

Ismael Pasha, on my sending to ask him if he intended to punish the officer for seizing the chapel, replied that he could do nothing, as the masbata exonerated the officer from blame.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 443.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

Trebizond, April 2, 1877.

(No. 5. Political.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Political, of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to point out that from the tenor of the report (No. 4) of the Governor and Council of Kelkit, the disorders which take place on the passage of the Redifs may be assigned to two principal causes, namely, the want of commissariat arrangements, and the inadequacy of the officers leading the men.

The resources of the villages are not sufficient for providing for an extra number of consumers; the continual passage of troops through the same highways drains the villages which are situated along them, of their usually scanty supplies, and threatens to deprive the peasants of their very means of subsistence.

It is quite natural, therefore, that after having provided once or twice for the wants

of the soldiers, the peasants far from continuing to offer the proverbial Eastern hospitality, should try, as it happened at Tashova, to prevent the Redifs from entering the village. But the latter are hungry and tired; they must at any cost eat and rest; they take what is not given them; from food they extend their depradations to other valuables, ill-treating those who oppose them, and as among a number of men there are always bad characters, they perpetrate even more serious and wanton outrages.

There is no doubt that if, instead of being led by simple corporals, serjeants, or policemen, as they seem to be now in some cases, the redifs during their march were under the command of officers of a superior rank, and of good repute, many, if not all, the disorders which occur now might be prevented.

I am far from wishing to exculpate the Redifs, but I mean to say that with ordinary precautions, the villages might have been spared the trouble which they are undergoing now, and in which the Government may be considered to have a great share of responsibility.

I have spoken to the Governor-General of the expediency of the Government providing certain stations on the highways with supplies for the troops, but besides the arrangement depending, it would seem, entirely on the military authorities, the Pasha pointed out that it would be difficult to carry it out, as the Redifs arrive in small squads from different parts of the country.

I think it nevertheless my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the urgency of the Turkish Government adopting measures of some kind in this respect, the more so that it is rumoured that several thousand Circassians (20,000 is the number mentioned) are to march from the neighbouring province of Sivas to Erzeroom, and that these irregulars being more unruly than the other troops, the depredations and outrages which they are likely to perpetrate in order to procure food, may be more serious and regrettable than those of which the inhabitants, whether Christians or Mussulmans, have had to complain hitherto.

It is by no means to be supposed that if the war does not break out the precautions which I respectfully suggest are less urgently required.

In fact the different classes of the Redifs have been called out at various times, and each ban has passed in small detachments through the country; on being disbanded they may be so nearly at the same period, and they will march to their respective villages in more imposing numbers; well or badly officered they were now under a certain control, by the fact alone of their going to join the army; on their return they will be their own masters. Stolen property would have been of small avail while serving, but anything will be useful to them in their desolate homes; they had not to think of their means of subsistence when joining the army, but they will be thrown, on leaving it, on their own resources, which in many cases are *nil*, most of the Redifs having left at home aged parents, or wives and young children, unable to gain their livelihood; finally, they will have no immediate prospect of bettering their condition, but will have to wait a whole year for the new crops.

Under these circumstances I am induced to believe, and the populations in this part of Anatolia are under the impression that unless adequate measures are adopted to insure the orderly return of the Redifs to their respective villages, there is to dread the perpetration of disorders of a more serious character, and on a larger scale, than those which take place at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 444.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

Trebizond, April 2, 1877.

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the enthusiasm of the Mussulmans, which I have had occasion to mention in former despatches, to fight for their country has not abated in this province, although it cannot be denied that many desertions have occurred.

It has increased rather than diminished, but mingled with it there is a strong sentiment of impatience at the dilatoriness which takes place. This feeling has manifested itself with more conspicuousness on the Mustahfiz, the last class of the reserve being called out.

The men who flock in from all parts of the country to be inscribed are unanimous in

declaring that they answer the call for the purpose of fighting, but not for being kept under arms for an indefinite period to the detriment of their families and with no advantage for their country. They state plainly that if after a few months spent under the standard they do not go to action they will all return to their houses, and this is not, I believe, a mere threat, but can be taken as the genuine expression of the feelings of the populations of this as well as of the neighbouring provinces.

Under these circumstances, if no decision is taken within a few months, the Porte may find itself at the end of that time in the dilemma of either seeing part of the 4th Army Corps desert, and disorganize by its example the remainder of the troops, or of declaring war on Russia in order to keep the soldiers under the standard and not find itself afterwards unarmed at the mercy of her formidable foe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 445.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 18. Political.) *Bosna Serai, April* 10, 1877.

My Lord,

SOME unpleasant feeling has been created here lately on account of a young peasant girl from the village of Bakrich, in the district of Rogatitza, persisting in turning Mussulman.

The facts of the case are as follows:—

The girl, who is only eleven or twelve years old, came—alone, as the Turks declare—to Serajevo and demanded to be accepted as a Mahommedan. She was quickly followed by her mother, a woman named Rugitza, who said her daughter had been brought here by some Turks, and demanded that she should be given back to her.

The girl strenuously refused to go back with her mother or to be given up to the Greek Bishop, and declared that she was a Mussulman. The case, therefore, went before the Medjliss.

After some debate as to the age of the child, it was agreed to place her for the moment with the head of the Catholic community, but the Vali decided against this, and placed her in the family of an old and respectable Mussulman.

This has given great offence to the Christians, who accuse the Governor-General of acting thus to force the girl to become a pervert to Islamism.

A few days ago I asked the Vali for his own explanation of the affair. He said it had given him much trouble, and, for his part, he should like to order the girl a good whipping and give her back to her relations; but with the affair at Salonica in vivid recollection, he was afraid of causing excitement among the Mussulmans; and, partly for this reason, and partly because he could not force the girl against her will to go to the Greek Bishop, while to send her to the Catholic priest, as recommended by the Medjliss, would not be satisfactory either to the Greeks or Mussulmans, therefore, to avoid anything which might give rise to disturbance, and to save his own responsibility, he had placed the child for the moment in a respectable Mussulman family, and had asked instructions from Constantinople how to act.

I told the Governor-General that it seemed to me to be the part of an intelligent ruler to prevent, at the outset, such matters from becoming matters of public notoriety, and, seeing that the girl was a mere child, I should have instantly sent her away with her mother, with a warning to keep quiet until, at least, she was of an age to understand what she was doing.

I represented to his Excellency that it seemed to me extreme want of tact to allow such trivial affairs to assume importance and create ill-feeling in such critical times, and that though, according to his own account, he had acted with the best intentions, he had laid himself open to accusation of fanaticism, and had created ill-feeling among the Christians, which was much to be regretted, and just what, it would seem, he had sought to avoid.

I told the Pasha also that I thought the matter was so much the more easy to deal with, at the outset, in a summary way, as the law was clear respecting persons under age.

His Excellency, in excuse, said that, in spite of appearances to the contrary, the girl declared herself arrived at the age of puberty, and consequently there was a difficulty as to that question.

I do not believe that the Vali is really fanatical, but he certainly endeavours to appear such to the Mussulmans. He seems to be afraid of them, and by his want of energy and courage produces difficulties which I cannot but believe he would be extremely glad to avoid. Such a person is a very dangerous Governor in the present state of affairs of this province.

I trust the Porte will not delay to send the Vali the instructions he has demanded, as the gravity of such matters is often immensely increased by the inattention and dilatoriness of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 446.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 20. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, April* 10, 1877.

A FEW days ago I was informed that the authorities here had received several cases of printed receipts, for one piastre each, to the amount of 1,300,000 piastres, which were to be forced on the people as a war tax.

The Governor-General informed me that it was true that such receipts had been sent here, but for twenty piastres and ten piastres each, which were to be offered to the people, both Christians and Mussulmans, as acknowledgment for whatever sums, according to their respective means, they might choose to contribute towards the expenses of war. These subscriptions, however, were to be purely voluntary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 447.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 21. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, April* 10, 1877.

MY Austrian colleague informs me that M. de Polo, his Vice-Consul at Banialuka, reports that thirty Christians of the village of Crémoshine, and twenty of the village of Pervina (Sandjak of Banialuka), have left their homes, unable any longer to support the treatment they receive both from insurgents and Turks, friends and foes. Also, that the Christian inhabitants of another village in the same sandjak, called Podradgnitza, had themselves burnt their houses and quitted their fields for the same reasons.

On the other hand, he tells me that he is informed, on what he thinks good authority, that many refugees are returning from Servia and Austria to their homes in the district of Svornik, and that they are not molested or ill-treated by the Turks.

Salih Pasha has been sent from Belina to Banialuka with three battalions of infantry, and will co-operate with Ismet Pasha, who is at Travnik, in the attempt which is about to be made to clear the north-west of Bosnia of the insurgent bands infesting the country. A force of about ten battalions has been collected for this purpose. I have constantly represented to the Governor-General the necessity of speedy action, as, spring having commenced, these bands are being daily augmented by adventurers from all quarters, who compromise the peaceable inhabitants with the Turks, and leave them no rest until they quit their homes to join them. His Excellency said that no one was more painfully aware of this than himself, and assured me that no needless time should be lost, but that there was considerable difficulty in providing the troops with all they needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 448.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 22. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, April 13, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 29th March, regarding the alleged impalement of Rado Buyich, and instructing me to make further inquiry into this case.

The authorities here absolutely deny that such an impalement took place, but, for obvious reasons, I attach no importance to this statement.

The only possible means of ascertaining the truth would be to visit the spot, and though, at this moment, I am not quite sufficiently recovered from my late indisposition to attempt such a journey, I shall, I hope, be quite strong enough to do so by the earliest moment at which I could receive a telegram from your Lordship in answer to this despatch.

In a late conversation with my Austrian colleague here, in which I mentioned that I was authorized to investigate personally the truth of any reported serious outrage, he expressed a wish that he, also, could be permitted to do so. Now it would be a very great satisfaction to me if your Lordship should think fit to suggest to the Austrian Government to immediately authorize M. Theodorovic to accompany me to ascertain, if possible, the truth of Rado Buyich's impalement, and also of some of the graver cases, mentioned in my despatch No. 29 of April 12th to Mr. Jocelyn, inclosed to your Lordship in Political No. 23 of April 13th, which are said to have occurred at places situated on our way to the frontier. We might also be able, perhaps, to clear up the matter of the impalements alleged by Mr. MacColl. Your Lordship may have remarked that that gentleman in a late letter to the "Times" has clearly pointed me out to the public as the one particular case of his "infinite contempt for Consuls," for no other reason that I can see, than from annoyance that, in simply doing my duty to the best of my ability, I could not but imagine him to have been mistaken.

I have always been most strictly conscientious in endeavouring to ascertain and report the truth, but I have been so often, and, I think your Lordship will admit, so unjustly abused as a "fanatical Turkophile" who also "writes to order," that I should be really glad to be supported by a gentleman, whom I believe to be no less conscientious than myself, but who cannot certainly be charged with being too favourable to the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 449.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 23. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, April 13, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I have just addressed to Mr. Jocelyn of 12th April, regarding certain cases of outrage and murder said to have recently occurred in this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 449.

Consul Holmes to Mr. Jocelyn.

Bosna-Serai, April 12, 1877.

Sir,

SINCE the receipt of your telegram of the 28th March, I have made particular inquiries as to the latest outrages believed to have been committed in Bosnia, and the following cases have been reported to me:—

1. On the 6th of February Mohamed Memish Begovich brutally beat a Christian villager of Ostruchnja in the bazaar at Teshnch.

2. On the 12th of February, in the bazaar of Doboi, Hadgi Hassan Alug beat almost to death Ivan Antick, of the village of Presada.

3. On the 17th of February a certain Dushitch, accompanied by zaptiehs, broke into a house at Teshnch, belonging to a schoolmaster named Petranovic, now at Serajevo, and plundered and destroyed its contents.

4. On the 14th of February certain soldiers of the Nizam killed Marko Keljevick, and mortally wounded his two sons while attempting to defend his daughter and their sister from violation, at the village of Pauteha, district of Plevjé, near Tashlidjé.

5. On the 15th of February some regular soldiers violated the wife of Iovan Pantovich, of the village of Podgora, district of Plevjé.

6. On the 7th of March, Hashim Ibraich Begovich killed with his own hands Gavro Jerinich and his wife, in the village of Cashcovitza, in the nahid (district) of Teshnch (or in Serb Teshanj). Six children are left orphans.

7. On the 13th March a Yuzbashi was proceeding from Derbent towards Teshnch with twenty Redifs, and, when near Iovovtza, perceiving a rayah cutting wood at a certain distance from the road, gave the order to his men to see if they could hit him; on this a Redif of Jeptché fired and shot the man through the head.

I have brought all these cases to the notice of the Governor-General, who states, with regard to Nos. 1, 2, and 3, that he would cause inquiries to be made, and will communicate the result to me.

With reference to Nos. 4 and 5, he can give no information, as they occurred in the Mutessariflik of Yeni Bazar, which is beyond his jurisdiction, having been annexed to the new vilayet of Coshovo.

As to No. 6, he has just sent to inform me that, in reply to a telegram he had addressed to the Mutessarif of Banialuka, Reshid Effendi, the latter states that, according to information from the Kaimakam of Teshnch, a certain Assir Aga, Captain of volunteers (Bashi-Bazouks), with eight men in his service, wishing to sleep at Rashcovitz, reached the house of Gavro Jerinich, where he unexpectedly met with a band of brigands and insurgents, with whom an encounter immediately took place. A great many of them were wounded, and they took to flight. One of Assir Aga's men was also wounded, and the wife of Gavro, the master of the house, was killed in the fight. Afterwards, Assir Aga joined some twenty Redifs and pursued the insurgents. Of what afterwards occurred the Mutessarif had no information, but promised to send further details, if possible, which the Pasha says he will communicate to me.

This is a very vague and there is an error in the name, whether intentional, or on which side, I cannot say.

As to No. 7 the authorities here have been informed of the murder of the rayah, and the matter is now under examination, and the result will be communicated to me.

The Governor-General said, with much truth, that under existing circumstances such occurrances will inevitably occur, and could not be prevented. All the Government could do was to punish the criminals. I remarked that I quite agreed with his Excellency, but regretted to state that the criminals never were punished. The Pasha, without agreeing with me, said that it was most difficult to obtain proper evidence against them, as they were protected by their friends, and, moreover, he complained of the incapacity and fanaticism of the Kaimakans and petty authorities in general, who often could not be got to carry out their instructions. There is no doubt that all this is true, but it is my experience that the higher authorities, also, are influenced by fanaticism and want of courage, and fail to do their duty with proper energy.

With regard to a personal investigation on the spot of such matters, it seems to me that it would be very difficult to obtain evidence of an outrage which has occurred weeks ago, particularly as the authorities would probably use intimidation, and every other means, to prevent the truth being known, but it would be the only possible means of ascertaining the truth. Whenever such things happen, the Turks seem to do all in their power to hush them up, and the most efficacious remedy is that which I recommended last week in my despatch No. 24 of the 5th April, that the Porte should send here one of its best men —one convinced of the necessity of putting a stop to lawless conduct, and having the courage to do so.

In strict justice, however, I cannot help remarking, that in nearly all the cases of violence or outrage, which, during many years, have been brought to my notice, and which I have investigated, I have found so much exaggeration and misrepresentation, that I am naturally disinclined to believe anything I hear, unless I have undoubted proof of its correctness. Men, said to have been cruelly beaten and dying, I have found in robust health, having only received bad language, and, perhaps, a box on the ear. Women, said to have been violently taken by the Turks and ravished, and perhaps murdered, I have ascertained to have simply fled from their homes on account of bad treatment there, and to have remained in concealment until they chose to return. At the same time, I am of

course convinced that, generally, since the breaking out of these troubles, far too many gross outrages and atrocious acts of retaliation, on both sides, have really taken place, but which, under present circumstances, would probably be very difficult to substantiate, even by personal investigation, unless one happened to be on the spot at the time of their occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 450.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 24. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, April 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of 10th April, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman regarding the present position, strength, and condition of the troops in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 450.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, April 10, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Mushir, Suleiman Pasha, arrived here on the 7th instant, having withdrawn the main body of his troops from the neighbourhood of Gabella and Stolatz to Blaguï, about six miles from this town, where at the present moment twenty-eight battalions are encamped.

The Mushir states that he has been making all necessary preparations for a renewal of the war with Montenegro, should peace not be concluded, and is confident that the troops under his command will be found in every respect fit to take the field. During the last two months between 4,000 and 5,000 recruits have arrived here from different parts of the Empire, and others are continually arriving. The military authorities declare that all the battalions in the Herzegovina are now at their full strength, viz., the Nizam 800 men and the Redif 1,000; but this, I fear, is an exaggeration. The army contractors who supply the troops with bread and meat inform me that for the camp at Blaguï they issue daily 20,000 rations. There cannot be a surer criterion than this, and, as the number of rations issued is always in excess of the actual number of troops, it may be safely asserted that the twenty-eight battalions in camp do not average an effective of more than 700 men, and they are probably the strongest battalions in the country.

The total force of infantry now in the Herzegovina is forty-eight battalions, which are at the present moment distributed as follow:—

Camp at Blaguï	28
Mostar	1
Ljubushka	1
Gabella	2
Stolatz	2
Gatzko	7
Bilekia	2
Trebigué	5
Total	48

Should there be a forward movement the camp at Blaguï will, of course, be immediately broken up.

I regret to state that the health of the army is very far from what it could be desired, and the mortality excessive. No sanitary precautions whatever are taken in camp and barrack to ward off disease, and the hospital accommodation is bad and insufficient. Sixteen physicians, eight surgeons, and thirteen apothecaries are said to be required to complete the medical staff. Many of the most ordinary medicines are wanting, and there are not sufficient beds, the sick having frequently no mattrasses and nothing but their cloaks to cover themselves with. I am assured that efforts are being made to overcome

all these difficulties, but should the war recommence, and to the sick be added the wounded, the mortality would, I fear, be appalling. Unfortunately, also, the ignorance, negligence, and want of common humanity generally displayed, whether by doctors, apothecaries, or hospital attendants, is very great. There are certainly some few praiseworthy exceptions, but to ameliorate matters it is necessary that all without exception exert themselves to the utmost.

At the present moment there are not less than 2,200 men in hospital. Of these there are:—

At Mostar	About	850
Trebigné	„	750
Stolatz	„	350
Gatzko, Bilekio, &c.	„	250
Total	„	2,200

I can obtain no statistics of the other hospitals, but at Mostar the rate per cent. of the various maladies is as follows:—

Scurvy	40
Diarrhœa	20
Syphilis	15
Typhoid fever	7
Pneumonia	5
Sundry	13
Total	100

The mortality averages 1 to 1½ per cent. per diem.

The position chosen for the camp at Blaguï is exceedingly salubrious, with abundance of good water close at hand; and as spring advances, and vegetables become plentiful, a decrease of sickness, especially as regards scurvy, is confidently anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 451.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 94. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, April 11, 1877.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY telegraphed the night before last to my Austrian colleague that he believed that Prince Nicholas might obtain from the Porte all that he wanted, except Nichsich. His Excellency therefore urged His Highness to forego this point, chiefly on the ground that such a renunciation would only be temporary, as it was clear that any pacific arrangement made for Turkey now would be provisional, and one, probably, of only two or three years' continuance.

Colonel Thömmel went yesterday morning to the Palace, and communicated this message to Prince Nicholas. The interview was of short duration, His Highness pleading an engagement with a Servian Colonel, who was waiting to be received by him.

The Prince sent for me late in the afternoon, and I found His Highness in a state of extreme irritation over the recent telegrams from Count Andrassy. He recapitulated all his complaints of the untrustworthiness of Austrian policy; said that it was clear that the Cabinet of Vienna was determined that he should have as little as possible in the way of territorial cessions from Turkey; and repeated the opinion which he has so frequently enunciated to me, that Austria will one day have cause to repent her disingenuous policy.

His Highness added that it was his personal regard for Colonel Thömmel, and the recollection of many years of friendship between them, which had alone prevented his using at the morning's interview language which would have unmistakeably shown the extent of his annoyance. He had preferred to close the audience abruptly.

I told the Prince that in my opinion he had acted wisely; for that, although in general I should advocate a frank expression of opinion, the present crisis was far too delicate, and my colleague's temperament far too sensitive, to make it advisable for His Highness to give way to the impulse of the moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 452.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 95. Political. Most Confidential.)

Cettigné, April 11, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS said to me yesterday that he felt himself to be cooling down in his indignation against Russia. At first he had been quite exasperated at General Ignatiew's Vienna declaration about Niehsich, and at the absolute silence which the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh had preserved with reference to the negotiations between Turkey and Montenegro. Now, however, he understood that General Ignatiew's statement was not to be taken as the official utterance of the Russian Government, who would not, he was sure, agree in such an opinion about Niehsich as that attributed to the General; and, in the second place, he understood the significance of the silence of Prince Gortchakow. Had Russia wished him to act otherwise than he had been doing, she would have taken care to let him know; her omission to send him a word of counsel was a hint that she approved his demands, including, of course, his insistance upon the cession of Niehsich.

I urged that, as the only official utterance had been General Ignatiew's, the inference ought to be the other way; but His Highness said that the General was in the habit, as every one knew, of saying things not strictly accurate, and very often not intended to be taken as such. He quite understood that Russia meant him to insist upon having Niehsich; and the reservation in the Protocol as to peace between him and the Porte was a sufficient clue to Russian policy.

In answer to my remark that His Highness could not suppose that Russia would go to war with Turkey simply to obtain Niehsich for Montenegro, the Prince said that it was "not a question of her going to war, but of her not disarming. Between ourselves," said he, "there is an intelligence between Prince Gortchakow and me which supersedes the necessity of telegraphic communication. Please to consider that I am not now speaking officially. I am M. Petrovich talking to Mr. Monson, and I assure you that if Prince Gortchakow has detained M. Yonine so long at St. Petersburgh, and left Russia virtually unrepresented at Cettigné, it is because he knows that he can trust Prince Nicholas more confidently than he can trust his own Agent, and that, impulsive as the Prince is, and poetically as he may sometimes talk, he is not the child that Colonel Thömmel and Count Andrassy choose to think him. I give you my word of honour," he continued, "that I have not received any prompting from Russia; but Prince Gortchakow knows that it is not required, and that there is a telegraph of intelligence between us which amply supplies the want of formulated advice."

I trust that your Lordship will condone my reporting this confidential conversation, of which the Prince certainly never intended me to make official use. In dealing with His Highness I find myself placed in a position of extreme delicacy. He has been accustomed to talk with the Russian and Austrian Agents in a confidential manner, and with the idea that he has a right to regard such conversations as strictly personal. And although he knows that my views upon the inviolability of his confidences are very different, and that English Agents look upon the duty of having no secrets from their Government as paramount to every other consideration, he at times cannot check himself; and, after having spoken too incautiously, is reduced to the necessity of begging that his imprudences may not be taken as official statements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 453.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 96. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, April 11, 1877.

My Lord,

MY Austrian colleague received last night a telegram from Count Andrassy, adverting to the possibility of the question of the independence of Montenegro being raised in reference to territorial cessions on the part of Turkey; and asked me, confidentially, my opinion as to the expediency of broaching the subject with the Prince, he himself thinking that it would be most unadvisable to do so.

I answered that I entirely agreed with him. I pointed out that on the 31st May,

1856, Prince Danilo protested to all the Great Powers against the claim of the Porte's suzerainty put forward by Ali Pasha at the Congress of Paris; and that even in the 1st Article of the Convention, signed between Prince Nicholas and Omer Pasha on the 31st August, 1862, the wording had been so arranged as to avoid direct reference to this delicate point.

I am convinced that the bare intimation that the claim of suzerainty had been subject of discussion would suffice to exasperate not only Prince Nicholas, but every man, woman, and child in the Principality; and would render abortive the fairest chances of a successful negotiation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 454.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 97. Political.)

Cettigné, April 11, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS summoned my Austrian colleague, the Russian Secretary, and myself to the Palace this morning, and read to us a telegram from his Delegates stating that they had been informed that the Turkish Parliament had unanimously declared against all territorial cessions to Montenegro; and that they understood also that the Porte's reply to the Protocol was a Circular, which was tantamount to its rejection. The Delegates added that they were to have an interview with Safvet Pasha to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 455.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 98. Political.)

Cettigné, April 11, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS intends his Delegates to return by Odessa and Vienna. I think that the idea originated with my Austrian colleague, who is very anxious that Count Andrassy should have a last opportunity of bringing about an arrangement between Turkey and Montenegro. The Prince has been very much inclined to withdraw his consent to this itinerary, so bitter is his present feeling against Austria; but I learn to-night that he will abide by his promise to let Austrian diplomacy have a chance of settling the question, although he certainly does not share Colonel Thömmel's unbounded faith in the dexterity of the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 456.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 99. Political.)

Cettigné, April 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams respecting the forwarding of the Montenegrin grain to Rieka. Your Lordship will see that I have drawn Mr. Green's attention to the fact that not one-sixth part of the total quantity has yet been sent up the lake, that is to say, that of 1,200,000 okes, not more than 160,000 or 170,000 had, at the date of my telegram, been received at Rieka.

I have had several conversations recently with Prince Nicholas on this subject. His Highness is allowing the provisioning of Niehsich over Montenegrin soil to be conducted with perfect regularity; and there remains, it would seem, no more than about 300 horse-loads to be forwarded to complete the operation.

But it is always present to His Highness' mind that, the provisioning of Niehsich

once effected, the Turks may find some pretext, possibly the outbreak of hostilities, for violating their engagements, and even for seizing his grain. In such an event the Prince counts upon the action of Her Majesty's Government to protect his property, and to insist upon its punctual delivery to him, on the ground that, having faithfully executed the stipulations of the Convention himself under English auspices, he has a right to reckon upon the exaction, by English remonstrances, of equal good faith on the side of the other contracting party.

I hope that the necessity for any such action will not arise; but it is my duty to represent to your Lordship that such a contingency is not absolutely impossible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 456.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, April 10, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to my telegram of the 6th instant I find that as yet not one-sixth part of the grain has reached Riéka, instead of nearly half as I then telegraphed.

Inclosure 2 in No. 456.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, April 11, 1877, 12·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
DERVISH PASHA has informed me, through Azarian Effendi, that his Excellency will continue to forward grain to Riéka as quickly as it arrives up the Boyana, in accordance with his instructions from Constantinople.

No. 457.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 100. Political.)
Cettigné, April 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from the Montenegrin delegates at Constantinople dated yesterday afternoon, and of Prince Nicholas' reply, which was dispatched about midnight last night.

The delegates announce in their telegram that the Porte seems inclined to protract the negotiation by a reference to the Senate; but that they intend to demand a definite answer on the 13th. They also state that Safvet Pasha does not conceal that he regards war with Russia as inevitable; and they ask whether the Prince wishes them to return by the route before indicated, namely, by Vienna.

His Highness' reply approves their intention as to demanding a definite answer; orders them, in case of its being unfavourable or delayed, to quit Constantinople by the first steamer, and to mention casually, in taking leave, that they are returning to Montenegro viâ Vienna.

The Prince sent for me and my Austrian colleague yesterday evening, read to us M. Petrovich's telegram, and asked our advice.

Colonel Thömmel recommended him to withdraw his delegates, and send them to Vienna, advice upon which His Highness has acted.

For myself, having had no recent instructions from your Lordship, and being without any direct information as to what has passed at Constantinople, I thought that it was hardly my business to counsel the recall of the delegates. But as the Prince and Colonel Thömmel pressed me for an opinion, I said that I could not profess to speak with official authority, as my Austrian colleague had done, but that, under the circumstances, I thought that his advice was alike suitable to His Highness' dignity, and to a possible resumption of negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 457.

M. Petrovich to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 30 Mars / 11 Avril, 1877, 3 P.M.

SAFVET dit que nos demandes seront soumises au Sénat. Il paraît vouloir traîner nos affaires en longeur, sans prendre en considération la guerre avec la Russie qu'il avoue comme inévitable; mais avons déclaré formellement qu'irons demander après-demain réponse définitive. Demandons faut-il partir immédiatement et par voie indiquée en cas de refus?

Inclosure 2 in No. 457.

The Prince of Montenegro to M. Petrovich.

(Télégraphique.)
Cettigné, le 30 Mars / 11 Avril, 1877.

MERCREDI soir. Reçu dépêche de trois heures. Approuvé votre déclaration à Safvet. Recevant, après-demain, réponse défavorable, ou si elle se fait attendre, vous avez ordre de partir par premier bateau pour Odessa et Vienne. Je vous laisse juger de la façon dont vous prendrez congé, et n'ai pas besoin de vous recommander d'être digne et ferme. Vous indiquerez, comme en passant, le séjour que vous devez faire à Vienne.

No. 458.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 101. Political.)
Cettigné, April 13, 1877.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH it is probable that your Lordship will have received from Mr. Consul Green a copy of the Convention originally concluded between the Turkish and Montenegrin military authorities for the transport of provisions to Nichsich and of grain to Riéka, I think it as well to transmit one herewith, and to point out that by Article III it is provided that, if the operation of transport on either side be not effected before the date of the expiration of the armistice (originally fixed for the 17 February / 1 March), the recommencement of hostilities shall not interfere with the due execution of the stipulations.

I learn that as the Turks have recently landed 320,000 okes at Cattaro, the quantity required to be transported by them to Riéka will be by so much diminished; that is to say, 880,000 okes will be the total to be conveyed to the head of the Scutari Lake; and that not more than a fourth of this total has as yet been forwarded by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 458.

Convention.

SON Altesse le Prince de Monténégro consentant à l'entrée dans la place de Nichsich des vivres nécessaires à la population civile, et se chargeant de les y faire transporter; la Sublime Porte de son côté consentant au passage, par la voie du Lac de Scutari, des provisions destinées à la population du Monténégro, et se chargeant d'en faire effectuer le transport.

Il a été convenu ce qui suit:—

Entre le Voïvode Pierre Vukotich, Commandant-en-chef des forces de Son Altesse le Prince de Monténégro, autorisé par Son Altesse, et représenté par M. Nicolas Matanovich, Aide-du-camp du Prince, d'un part;

Et Son Excellence le Maréchal Suleiman Pacha, Commandant-en-chef des forces de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan en Bosnie et en Herzégovine, autorisé par la Sublime Porte, et représenté par Azarian Effendi, Secrétaire du Commandement-en-chef en Herzégovine, d'autre part:—

ARTICLE I.

Les autorités Monténégrines se chargeant de transporter, à leurs frais, de Risano à Nichsich, la quantité de 158,000 oques de vivres, destinés à la population civile de Nichsich, et que les agents de la Sublime Porte devront livrer aux agents Monténégrins à quai à Risano.

ARTICLE II.

Les autorités Ottomanes se chargeant de transporter, à leurs frais, par eau, de Cattaro à Riéka (Monténégro) la quantité de 1,200,000 oques de vivres, destinés à la population de la Principauté, que les agents du Prince remettront à ceux de la Sublime Porte à bord des bâtiments destinés à ce transport.

ARTICLE III.

Les deux Parties Contractantes s'engagent à effectuer les susdits transports jusqu'au 10 Mars (26 Février) inclusivement. Si à l'expiration de l'armistice actuel, soit le 1er Mars (17 Février), les hostilités venaient à recommencer, les deux Parties s'engagent à achever les transports ci-dessus mentionnés, et à assurer le libre passage des convois, ainsi que la sécurité des agents employés de part et d'autre.

ARTICLE IV.

Les hôpitaux de Nichsich se trouvant dépourvus de certains approvisionnements de pharmacie, les autorités Monténégrines se chargent d'en transporter également à leurs frais à Nichsich, une quantité équivalent à la charge de cinq chevaux, qui leur sera remise à quai à Risano.

ARTICLE V.

Chacune des deux Parties Contractantes se réserve le droit de faire accompagner par un agent chacun des convois qui lui sont destinés, et de constater à l'arrivée le poids des quantités livrées.

Fait à Cettigné, en double exemplaire, le 7 Février (26 Janvier), 1877.

(Signé) N. MATANOVICH, m.p.
AZARIAN, m.p.

No. 459.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No 102. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, April 13, 1877.

My Lord,

THE irritation of Prince Nicholas, at the recent advice given him by Austria (referred to in my despatch No. 94, Confidential, of the 11th instant), has been dissipated by the communication to him of a telegram addressed to my Austrian colleague the day before yesterday by Count Andrassy, in which his Excellency says that "Prince Nicholas has been perfectly in the right" ("Fürst Nikolaus hat ganz Recht gehabt").

His Highness was so pleased at justice being thus done him that he called yesterday on Colonel Thömmel, and begged for a copy of the telegram, remarking that "such a declaration was what was to be expected from Magyar frankness."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 460.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 103. Political.)

Cettigné, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two telegrams received by Prince Nicholas from his Delegates at Constantinople yesterday; copy of a telegram addressed to His Highness by the Grand Vizier, and copy of the Prince's reply.

These telegrams announce the definite rupture of negotiations, and the immediate resumption of hostilities between Turkey and Montenegro.

The Prince called upon me yesterday afternoon, and said that he thought it very probable that the Turks would attack him at once, and that he had made his dispositions accordingly, having already eleven battalions in the neighbourhood of the Douga, under the command of his father-in-law, the Voïvode Vichotich.

I told His Highness that I did not believe that the Turks could be in a position to attack him quite so quickly with any chance of success, an opinion in which Colonel Thömmel agreed.

It is, however, most likely that the Porte hopes to be able to strike a heavy blow at the Principality before Russia can make an effectual diversion; and the Ottoman Commanders have collected for the purpose a force of at least 100 battalions, the majority of which are stationed at the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 460.

M. Petrovich to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1877.

LA Porte refuse catégoriquement nos dernières demandes. Avons rompus négociations. Demain prenons congé. Partirons par premier bateau Lundi.

Inclosure 2 in No. 460.

M. Petrovich to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1877.

DEMAIN ou après-demain Safvet vous dénoncera l'armistice. Attendez-vous à être attaqué, surtout du côté de Nichsich.

Inclosure 3 in No. 460.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1877.

L'ARMISTICE arrêté entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Principauté de Monténégro a expiré aujourd'hui. Les négociations pour amener le rétablissement de la paix étant malheureusement restées sans résultat, je crois devoir prévenir votre Altesse que la Sublime Porte a décidé que la suspension d'armes ne serait ni renouvelée ni prolongée.

Inclosure 4 in No. 460.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Avril*, 1877.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la dépêche de votre Altesse de ce jour et, tout en regrettant comme elle que nos négociations n'aient pas abouti, je prends note que la Sublime Porte n'a pas le projet de me proposer un nouveau prolongement d'armistice.

No. 461.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 104. Political.)
Cettigné, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the course of his visit to me yesterday, Prince Nicholas said that he believed that M. Yonine would leave St. Petersburgh to-day for Cettigné.

His Highness observed that whatever might be said of his conduct of the late negotiations, he himself (the Prince) was alone responsible for it; and that Russia had left herself virtually unrepresented here, and had given him no advice. He hoped that Europe would credit him with past moderation, in that he had renounced many of the conditions which the Conference of the Powers had proposed in his favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 462.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 105. Political.)
Cettigne, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams exchanged between me and Mr. Consul Green, respecting the alleged stoppage of the provision trains for Nichsich, and the delays in the despatch of the grain to Riéka.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 462.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, April 11, 1877, 3·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA informs me, through Azarian, that Hussein Pasha has telegraphed that Montenegrin authorities refuse to permit further passage of convoys for Nichsich.

His Excellency expresses surprise at this, especially as to-day a steamer left with grain for Riéka.

Azarian maintains Porte intends to execute faithfully its engagements.

Inclosure 2 in No. 462.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, April 12, 1877, 11 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DERVISH PASHA has been misinformed as to stoppage of convoys, no such thing having occurred.

Five horse-loads soap and oil were stopped, being neither medicines nor haberdashery. Shall probably obtain permission for their passage eventually. Meantime count upon continuance of grain forwarding.

Inclosure 3 in No. 462.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, April 12, 1877, 8·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

STEAMER that went yesterday to Riéka has not yet returned. Pasha begs that the lighters it tows may be quickly unloaded, so as to enable them to make more frequent voyages.

Inclosure 4 in No. 462.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, April 13, 1877, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS has given orders to expedite as much as possible the unloading of the lighters.

No. 463.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 106. Political.)
Cettigné, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS sent his Secretary to me yesterday, to explain to me the circumstances under which the Montenegrins had seized fifteen Turkish horses in the neighbourhood of Nichsich before the expiration of the armistice. These horses belonged to a provision train, and were captured on neutral ground. His Highness at once took steps for restoring them, as your Lordship will see by the inclosed copy of a telegram, which I sent at once to Mr. Consul Green.

Later in the day the Prince himself came to me, and said that the Turks would certainly complain to me upon the subject; but that it was a pure mistake which he had done his best to rectify immediately.

I told His Highness that I hoped that my telegram would anticipate any complaint on the part of Dervish Pasha; but I confess that I am very apprehensive of some pretext being made by his Excellency for impounding the Montenegrin grain now in the Boyana, and drawing Mr. Consul Green and myself into a very disagreeable controversy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 463.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, April 13, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FIFTEEN Turkish horses which were taken by mistake near Nichsich have been sent by the Prince's orders to Danilograd. Instructions have been given to the authorities there to communicate the fact at once to Hussein Pasha in order that they may be restored to their owners. I hasten to inform you of this mistake, and to request you to let Dervish Pasha know that His Highness gave immediate orders for its rectification.

No. 464.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 107. Political.)
Cettigné, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

THE intelligence that the resumption of active hostilities is imminent became generally known in Cettigné yesterday afternoon, and I am bound to report that the tidings seemed to be unanimously welcomed.

There have been several Albanian Chiefs here the last day or two. They have hurriedly started for the scene of hostilities in Mirditia, and arrangements have been made to support the Albanian insurrectionary movement from this Principality.

The Prince showed himself in the town several times in the course of yesterday afternoon, and did not omit to stimulate, by his eloquence, the martial ardour of his subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 465.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 25.*)

(No. 108. Political.)
Cettigné, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I LEARN this morning from the Prince, just before post hour, that he has received intelligence that the number of the Turkish troops at Gazko had been much exaggerated, and that instead of twenty-four they have but eight battalions concentrated there. Under these circumstances, of which I had myself had some previous intimation, there is not, as I took the liberty of saying to His Highness yesterday, much chance of an immediate attack in the direction of Nichsich.

As Count Andrassy has telegraphed that Lord Augustus Loftus seems to think, from Prince Gortchakow's language, that Russia meditates another appeal to the Powers before taking a decisive step on her own account, Prince Nicholas is not sorry to find that it is hardly possible for the Turks to make a serious attack upon him for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 466.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 25.*)

(No. 109. Political.)
Cettigné, April 16, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 105 of the 14th instant, respecting the transport of grain and stores for Montenegro and Nichsich respectively, I have the honour to report that I am informed by Prince Nicholas that up to the present date the Turks have forwarded to Riéka 205,000 okes of flour and maize, that His Highness has consented to receive at Cattaro 320,000 okes, so that of the total 1,200,000 okes stipulated by the Convention there now remain 675,000 okes due at Riéka.

As to the stores for Nichsich, I am informed that there remain due in that town 11,309 okes, for the passage of which, from Spuz, over Montenegrin territory, orders have been given by His Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 467.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 25.*)

(No. 28. Political.)
Scutari, April 12, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27, Political, of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy and a translation of a letter addressed by Prenk Bib Doda to the Consular Body of Scutari.

The Mirdite Chieftain attempts to account for the feeble resistance offered to the troops advancing from Miet by saying that the peasants were taken by surprise, owing to his having informed them that no hostilities would commence until the expiration of a delay of forty hours, obtained by the action of the Italian and British Consuls; but the stipulated time having expired on Friday morning, the movement forwards made on Sunday can in no way be called an act of bad faith on the part of the Turks.

Bib Doda also states that the advance of the troops on to Mirdite ground brought about the immediate destruction of Captain Dod Ghega's house, as well as of those of his adherents. Here, too, I am obliged to point out that the Chieftain is inexact in his statements, as the houses were destroyed by the 7th, whilst the troops only commenced their march on the 8th instant.

The Mirdites are apparently alarmed by the overwhelming force which is being gathered against them, and the allusions to a holy war and massacre of the Christians in the letter of Prenk Bib Doda are evidently made with the hope of bringing about foreign interference.

My colleagues and I, after consulting together, agreed we could do nothing to stop

the march of the Turkish troops, although, had the authorities not repelled our good offices, the present would have been a favourable opportunity for obtaining the submission of the Mirdites, and thus removing the danger of further collisions between Christians and Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 467.

Prenk Bib Doda to the Consular Body of Scutari.

(Translation.)
Orosci, April 10, 1877.

To the noble Consulates of Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, England and Russia.

Noble Consulates,

THE other day an attack was made by the Imperial troops against twenty or thirty Mirdites of Muella and Vigu, who were taken by surprise owing to the instructions and injunctions I had given them in accordance with the prearranged agreement of the 4th instant, made by the two Consulates of Italy and England, for a delay of forty hours during which no military measures should be taken against Mirdicia.

Notwithstanding this, a fight took place, fortunately, without any serious effusion of blood (at all events on the side of the Mirdites); but serious notice must be taken of the fixed intention of the Imperial Turkish authorities to invade Mirdicia, not to recognize any longer the autonomy and the traditional laws of the said Mirdicia, and to reduce a people faithful to the Government (because they are Christians) into a forced state of rebellion, which, I may almost say, is desired by the said authorities.

Mirdicia and the neighbouring Christian tribes are at the present time literally surrounded. Matia, Dibra, and other Mussulman tribes have been summoned to a holy war, and to the massacre of the Christians, but Mirdicia will lift, if no one else will, its feeble voice against the oppression which it is wished to inflict, in spite of the laws promulgated, by His Majesty the Sultan.

The overthrow of all my plans for effecting a pacification, and of my exhortations to the people to make them return to their homes, was accomplished by the arrival of the news of the fight at Rolesa, and from that moment it was impossible to face the popular fury. The kulé of Dod Ghega and those of his adherents were instantly destroyed.

I am obliged, nay, imperiously forced to declare, that tranquillity amongst this people depends on its not being reminded of Dod Ghega and his companions, and that a desperate resistance will be made if the Government should wish to impose on it by force a detested individual, condemned by the local laws to expatriation and universal reprobation. Further, a religious and terrible war, encouraged by the authorities themselves, through agents greedy for the blood of others, and having private ends and profits in view, is on the point of bursting out.

I am anxious that, at all events, the civilized nations should judge on which side lies the fault.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PRENK BIB DODA.

No. 468.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 25.*)

(No. 29. Political.)
Scutari, April 16, 1877.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch Political, No. 26 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that on the morning of that day Colonel Osman Bey directed two of the battalions under his command to take the breast-work which had been raised on the previous day by the Mirdites.

The advance was supported by a heavy fire from the two mountain pieces. The Mirdites, who numbered about 200, endeavoured to stop the troops by a very well sustained fusillade, but their balls could be plainly seen falling short, and, after they had fully ascertained the inefficiency of their weapons, they abandoned their position, which was immediately occupied by the Turks.

The bodies of two Mirdites were found in the redoubt, one of which was decapitated by a soldier, who was imprisoned for the act by order of Osman Bey. Four or five Mirdites were wounded and only one Turkish soldier slightly wounded.

The inclosed copies and translations of two letters addressed by Monsignor Marsili to the Italian Consul, will somewhat disprove the assertion of the Minister of the Interior at Constantinople that the Roman Catholic clergy favours the resistance of the Albanian mountaineers, whilst they show how difficult it is to obtain trustworthy information even of matters occurring almost within sight of the writer.

I also have the honour to inclose an extract from a letter received by me yesterday from Dr. Pedlow, an English medical man temporarily in the Turkish service, and at present with Osman Bey's force.

Dr. Pedlow gives a very satisfactory account of the discipline maintained by Osman Bey, and from native sources I learn that all provisions and forage taken in the villages for the use of the troops are paid for at once.

Dr. Pedlow distinctly asserts that, when the expedition commenced its march, the Mirdites were the first to fire on it, whilst all the natives as firmly declare that the Turks began the attack with their mountain artillery.

I believe there can be no doubt that the Church of Gruka-Ghiadri has been robbed by some of the soldiers left in the village since the main force advanced further into Mirdicia. All the vestments, &c., have disappeared, and the altar cross has been broken.

Dervish Pasha has now appointed an Albanian Mahommedan and a native Christian to join the expedition as Civil Commissioners to watch over the safety of the Mirdites who may make their submission. This measure can hardly be considered an additional guarantee for the good conduct of the troops. Commissions in Turkey are in bad repute, and the continuance of order depends entirely on the will of the commanding military officers.

Osman Bey's force is now at the village of Castagnetti, twelve hours distant from Orosci, the residence of Prenk Bib Doda.

The reports of the proceedings of the other expeditionary forces are, as yet, too vague to be depended upon.

The Mirdites have sent most pressing appeals to Cettigné for rifles and ammunition, and these will, no doubt, be supplied, provided a means can be found of conveying them into Mirdicia.

The Christian Bashi-Bazouks, mentioned in Dr. Pedlow's letter, are the adherents of Capitan Dod Ghega and such neighbouring villagers who want to secure the good-will of the authorities.

The Mahommedan irregulars probably withdrew when they found pillaging was not allowed, but in the other expeditionary forces the Bashi-Bazouk element predominates.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 468.

Monseigneur Marsili to M. Berio.

(Translation.)

Nensciati, April 11, 1877.

Sir,

(After two paragraphs of compliments.)

AND, firstly, in honour of the pure truth, I must tell you, Sir Consul, that, as far as I know, it was the Mirdites and not the regulars (Turkish troops) who were the assailants. The regulars were encamped in their tents, as had been the case for several weeks past, in the neighbourhood of the village of Narachi (in the Zadrima) when on Sunday last past they were hailed by a handful of Mirdites with a discharge of guns. On the following morning, the 9th, about eighty Mirdites, with loud and insulting cries, defied the Ottoman force to fight. About an equal number of the military was detached from the camp, and was directed, without firing a shot, against the Mirdites, in order to put them to flight.

These having made one discharge against the military without hitting any one, gave the real signal of alarm to the surrounding villages of Mnella, Vigu, Castagnetti, Dusci, Keira, Ranzi, &c.

There was no delay in a certain number (not more than 200) of Mirdites hastening to come, and, meeting all the force of Narachi on the hills of Grüka-Ghiadri, six times superior to them in numbers, they courageously attacked it, but, after about three hours of lively and irregular fighting, were obliged to retire, leaving on the field four wounded.

The regulars had no dead nor wounded, and occupied the best of positions. They took as booty the Indian corn and herds of cattle, &c., of one house only in Grüka-Ghiadri, burning the ricks and woodwork of the sheds. The other houses (families) of the said village, having given in their submission, were spared. This is the result of the first day of the Turco-Mirdite conflict.

The next night, however, Tuesday the 10th, the Mirdites once again molested the military encampments by firing into them, and on the morning of the said day, towards dawn, commenced a most furious conflict, which lasted more than three hours, but always with unhappy result for the Mirdites, who are not wanting in courage and valour, but are deficient in arms, ammunition, bread—in everything, in fact.

Therefore, on the second day also they were defeated, leaving on the field four wounded and two dead; one of these had his head cut off, and which was stuck upon a stake. This is the only atrocity committed by the regular troops. Also on this day they took as booty the Indian corn, cattle, &c., from some of the houses of Mnella, on the right bank of the River Ghiadri, destroying with hatchets the veranda of the house of Mani-Col-Busci, one of the Chiefs of Mnella, after having pillaged it of everything. The dead and wounded Mirdites were carried to their own houses.

No women have as yet been insulted, nor other houses burnt or destroyed. The Mirdites themselves admit especially the moderation and humanity of Colonel Riza Bey,* who, they say, has begged us and still urges in the most persuasive manner that we should permit him to march without opposition to Orosci, guaranteeing to us that not even a hair of our heads shall suffer injury.

Of Bashi-Bazouks properly speaking there are none with the troops, but there are about fifty to sixty zaptieh belonging to the party of Dod Ghega, and who form the advance guard of the regular force, and are all Mirdites, and consequently Christians.

The whole of to-day has passed in peace.

Notwithstanding the first want of success sustained, which is a sorrowful presage of the whole campaign, the Mirdites have not lost courage, and are so enthusiastic to fight the Turk that their unanimous and universal cry is, "Let us conquer or die! Long live the young Prince Prenk Biba!"

Up to the present the march made by the regulars does not cover more than an hour's distance from Narachi and Grüka-Ghiadri, and gives access to, but does not form part of Mirdicia.

The regulars have also employed field pieces. Yesterday evening they were reinforced by a battalion coming from Scutari, and they must be in all about 1,500 soldiers.

The numbers of the insurgents are also increasing at half-an-hour's distance between Mnella and Vigu, in order to contest the passage of the enemy's army. We are told that 500 have collected. Other Mirdites are fighting in the direction of Alessio; for the last three or four days the thunder of cannon has been also heard from that direction, but I do not know what the result is. Others, finally, oppose the passage to the military who are attempting to invade the territory from the side of Prisrend. May God send us good!

These are, sir, the few, but not exaggerated accounts which I am in a position to furnish you, and which you and the noble Consular Body must receive with indulgence, and with the assurance that I will hold it a sacred duty, as also a pleasure, to communicate to you consecutively everything new that may occur during the existence of this tragical comedy.

Pray, &c.

(Signed) FR. GIULIO MARSILI, *Bishop.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 468.

Monseigneur Marsili to M. Berio.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Nensciati, April* 12, 1877.

IT was only yesterday that the parish priest of Grüka-Ghiadri could come and report to me, much to my distress, that on the day of Tuesday last past, the Ottoman troops laid hands upon the church of the said parish.

I am at the present time also writing an official report and complaint of what has occurred to the Imperial and Royal Consul-General of Austria-Hungary, and I apply to you officiously, and through you to the other Consuls, to support my just claims. There-

* Osman Bey, Riza Bey is ill in Scutari.

fore, I hope I may obtain without delay reparation through the collective and strong patronage which was so graciously promised by you all.

From the same priest, a most impartial person, and one worthy of trust, having the advantage of having been close to the occurrences, and having been well-informed, I have found that I must make the following corrections to my letter of the 11th.

1st. The Mirdites were not the assailants, but the regulars (Turkish troops), who gave the signal for the commencement of hostilities by firing three cannon-shots. This occurred on Sunday the 8th, in the afternoon. The fire lasted three hours. The Mirdite combatants were only 70, from the village of Mnella; 4 were wounded.

2nd. Monday afternoon.—A fight of about two hours' duration, of no consequence.

3rd. Tuesday.—About 300 Mirdites impetuously attacked the Ottoman troops. The musketry fire, and that of the cannons, was most active for about three hours. The Mirdites fought with intrepidity and valour, but being greatly inferior in numbers and means, they yielded their position, leaving on the field 4 wounded and 2 killed, the head of one of whom was cut off and stuck on a juniper tree. Not even one house has been burnt, but many have been sacked. No insults to the women.

4th. All the army of regulars numbers about 2,000 soldiers. There are besides 200 Bashi-Bazouks, Turks and Christians, from Puka, from Toschia, from Mirdicia, and guards that are called Hoududieh (frontier guards).

5th. Yesterday afternoon the village of Mnella made way for the troops. These have gone as far as Vigu, about an hour's march. Probably there they had an encounter, as about 500 Mirdites were awaiting them, and yesterday evening the cannon could be heard.

The commander himself of the regulars admires the courage and bravery of the poor Mirdites.

They tell me that the Mirdites beyond Pedana and Zoimeni have surrounded the regular forces, taking possession of their baggage, ammunition, &c.

Dod Ghega told yesterday the said priest that six battalions of soldiers from Prisrend had arrived as far as Chiaffa Malit (in Merdicia).

I send my servant expressly to Scutari with this letter, as well as with the one for the Austrian Consul.

To-morrow, or the day after, I will send you further news.

In the meantime, &c.

(Signed) FR. GIULIO MARSILI, *Bishop of Sappo.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 468.

Dr. Pedlow to Consul Kirby Green.

(Extract.) *Saturday, April* 14, 1877.

WE have advanced for the last three days without any opposition. The Mirditian Chiefs invariably, on the troops taking up a position, state to the Colonel that they are not revolted, and frequently send a number of their "subjects" as an addition to our forces.

We are now comparatively out of the valleys which were a feature of the country previously, and are encamped on a rather high mountain, which runs transversely to our advance.

Osman Bey has taken the precaution to impress two or three men from each valley as a security that the passage of provisions from Miet will not be interrupted.

Sunday night.

Note with papers just received with thanks.

In answer to queries—

The first shots were fired by the insurgents.

There have been Bashi-Bazouks with us from the first. If you received my last letter all right, it states that many of them have the Martini-Henry rifle.

Sentinels have been placed at all the houses deserted by the Mirditians to prevent the soldiers entering.

A guard was placed at the church you mention to prevent any pillage, and during the whole time we rested beside it it was under my observation. Except it was pillaged in the night, it would have been impossible for such to have taken place without my seeing it.

No pillage of any sort has taken place except the taking of a very small quantity of forage for the horses. On one occasion a few pullets and a fowl were taken, but only once.

No houses or barns have been burned, and large numbers of the peasantry have returned to their homes.

I have been particularly observant of all these points, inasmuch as it struck me that it might be a subject of inquiry by you.

On one occasion the Bashi-Bazouks, who, I may as well state, are almost all Christians—a fact which I noticed to-day by seeing them all rise up and salute respectfully the curé of this district—on the second day entered a house during the time of the "engagement," if I may so call it, and carried off a quantity of anisette, and some malt liquor of some kind. Osman Bey, who is really very energetic to prevent anything improper, ordered a guard of soldiers to carry it back again. Had anything been pillaged, I would have seen it in strolling about the encampment of the soldiers and amongst the Bashi-Bazouks. These are almost all Mirditians. They are not more than 200 in number. Those who first joined us were about 500, but have almost all since left. They are forbidden to enter any houses, and I have not seen one soldier or civilian enter a house or any plunder of any kind.

The curés of all the districts have been here, and have (so Osman Bey says) used their influence in favour of the Government.

To-day one of the Mirdites died in a cottage beside us, from wounds received the second day.

We have received no reinforcements up to the present. Osman Bey states that a battalion is at present at Miet, and will join us probably to-morrow.

We heard two days ago the cannon of the troops on the opposite side. We are three hours distant from Puka.

Large numbers of the peasantry, in fact, almost the half, have never left their houses. It was a Chief or leader of the insurgents who died to-day.

We are not more than six hours by the direct route from Miet. We came by the mountains, and never were, except on one or two occasions in crossing from one spur to another, in the valleys.

No. 469.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 30. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Jastrébow, the Russian Consul, left this morning for Ragusa, having been ordered by his Government to withdraw from Scutari.

M. Jastrébow's house and some of the archives have been left under the care of M. Ceccaldi, the French Consul.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 470.

Consul Beyts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 1. Political.)

My Lord, *Suez, April* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that great exertions are being used by the authorities of Mecca and Jeddah to raise volunteers and drill the population, a movement attended with little success, being unpopular with the Arabs, who look on it as a preliminary step taken towards raising a conscription. Many of the middle classes and tradespeople are in consequence quietly leaving Jeddah for Aden, Mackulla, and Zanzibar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. J. BEYTS.

No. 471.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 46. Political.)

Belgrade, April 16, 1877.

My Lord,

A REPORT having been circulated that volunteers were being concentrated at Gladova (a place opposite to Roumania, and close to the Turkish frontier), with the object to effect a junction with Russian troops in the event of hostilities breaking out, I asked the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs whether there existed any foundation for such a report.

M. Ristitch informed me that about 600 volunteers of various nationalities, who had intended to proceed to Russia, but were told that they would not be admitted, were assembled at Gladova, and that he had yesterday caused instructions to be sent to the authorities to have them at once dispersed.

M. Ristitch added that, as peace had now been concluded with Turkey, the Servians desired to remain quiet, and that by allowing a number of volunteers to assemble so close to the Turkish frontier, Servian sincerity might be doubted, as at any moment, with a little encouragement from without, disturbances might be got up which would lead to new complications.

I further have the honour to report the arrival, at Belgrade, of the Russian General Fadieff, who is said to have come here for the purpose of ordering a number of pontoons to be got ready for the Russian army to cross the Danube from Roumania to Servian soil.

Such a report, however, ought to be received with caution, until the real object of his visit transpires, which it must sooner or later.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 472.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 295.)

Constantinople, April 16, 1877.

My Lord,

BY my telegram of the 8th ultimo I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Grand Vizier had stated his intention to me of carrying out certain reforms independently of the Chambers.

The inclosed précis of a despatch from Mr Vice-Consul Brophy shows that in the district of Bourgas a commencement has been made and that steps are being taken to subdivide the cazas into nahids.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 472.

Précis of a Despatch from Vice-Consul Brophy.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BROPHY reports from Bourgas under date of 7th April, that in his district Circassian brigandage is on the decrease, owing to the presence of half a troop of regular cavalry, who patrol the country, and have made several arrests.

The authorities have also required guarantees from the Circassian Beys for all the male population of their villages, and the sandjak is safer than it has been for the last ten years.

The process of decentralization has begun by selecting nahiés or chef-lieux of Mudirliks, each of which is to have authority over a certain number of neighbouring villages.

Probably Christian Governors with a Mussulman assistant will be nominated to these divisions where rayahs are numerically superior, and Mussulman Governors with a Christian assistant where Mussulmans are in the majority. A Naib will be appointed to every Mudirlik, as well as a local treasurer, and zaptiehs are to be chosen from persons of both religions, in proportion to their respective numbers.

The villages of the Caza of Slimnia selected are:—Sizopoli (Greek); Vassilikos (Greek); Allagunie (Bulgarian and Turkish); Guenk Tepe (Bulgarian); Cabba Sakkal (Bulgarian); and Tasslik-keui (Turkish, Bulgarian, Circassian, and Albanian mixed); each of which are distant about four hours from another, and will control an average of 5,000 souls.

With the exception of Tasslik-keui, the Mudirs of all the nahiés would have to be Christians. The choice of Tasslik-keui as a nahié has given umbrage to Christians and Mussulmans, on account of the number of Circassians resident there. The selection is due to the influence of Hadji-Omer Bey, a Circassian of Tasslik-keui, who is a member of the Medjliss of Bourgas.

If justice be only at all fairly administered to the new Mudirliks the subdivision of cazas will be an advantage to the rural population.

The Mustaphiz is being called out, and 256 men have presented themselves from the Cazas of Bourgas, Misseena, and Achialo, or rather more than 3 per cent. of the Mussulman male population, excluding Circassians. Upon this calculation, the Sandjak of Slimnia would have to provide 2,000 men.

No. 473.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 296.)

Constantinople, April 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a report addressed to Mr. Blunt by Mr. Bizzo, Dragoman of the Salonica Consulate, respecting outrages perpetrated on the Christian population in the districts of Stroumnitza and Malish since May, 1876.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 473.

M. Bizzo to Consul Blunt.

Salonique, le 6 Avril, 1877.

M. le Consul,

D'APRES vos ordres je me suis empressé de m'adresser à une personne de confiance pour être renseigné relativement aux événements qui ont eu lieu à Stroumnitza et Malish, et en conséquence j'ai l'honneur de vous rapporter ce qui m'a été écrit.

Au mois de Mai de l'année dernière, lors de l'insurrection en Bulgarie, le brigand Mita a tué deux Musulmans du village Razloutzi, qui est en Bulgarie, non loin de Malish. Les Musulmans du dit village pour le venger ont tué des Chrétiens vingt-huit hommes et enfants dit-on.

A Malish même les Musulmans ont tué le Chrétien Giorgio Goltzo, et les nommés Mita Giorgio, Mita Posdinemje Coagiabashi, et Jean Papastulo, sont morts dans la prison du village de Petjovo, à la suite des coups de bâton.

Le 6 Janvier de l'année courante Zerak Mehemet, fils d'un membre du Medjliss, a tué la femme Jeanne, épouse d'Athanase, du village de Metjovo, et le nommé Kiussé Mustafa, après avoir blessé Jean Jelio, s'est donné au brigandage.

Le nommé Latif Yarkar et Demir Yarkar profiteront de l'emprisonnement du Chrétien Franco Calfa, qui se trouvait detenu à Stroumnitza pour se rendre dans son village à Vladimoro, et dérober sa maison et violer l'épouse du prisonnier, après quoi ils se donnèrent au brigandage.

Dans le village de Borovo les Musulmans ont violé et battu une grande quantité de femmes; ils ont tué Filio, un autre de Barbarovo, et un autre Midrovitza.

A Malish à part toutes les déprédations commises par les Musulmans ils ont pris aux habitants une somme d'environ 63,000 piastres. Les disgraces de Malish sont très graves, meurtres et assassinats, vols, violés, et toute sorte d'exaction et de travaux forcés.

Le 17 Mars les Musulmans dévalisaient l'église de Colerna, et les réclamations des villageois n'ont eu aucun effet.

(Signé) J. BIZZO.

No. 474.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 297.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 254 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of two further despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica relative to the outrage at Podzarsko.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 474.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, April* 7, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that having heard that the Vali of Salonica had put in arrest a certain Nicola, native of Vodina, who had come here to present to the authorities a petition and other papers in behalf of the inhabitants of the village of Podzarsko, I immediately called on his Excellency and remonstrated with him against such a step.

He told me that the man was to be sent to Vodina to be examined by the Commission of Inquiry, at Podzarsko, as to how he got possession of the seals of this village, and what use he had made of them, the authorities having strong reasons to believe that he had not been appointed by the villagers as their agent, but was acting as such under the orders of a certain Douzi Mehemet Bey, a Mahomedan, and the principal land-owner in Vodina, where he is universally feared and hated by the inhabitants.

I observed to the Pasha that under the circumstances the arrest of the individual in question would produce a very bad impression, and I urged his Excellency to set him at liberty, which he has promised to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 474.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Salonica, April* 9, 1877.

WITH reference to my dispatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the man Nicola, who is acting here as the representative of the village of Podzarsko, has been set free by the Pasha of Salonica.

I should also report that private information has been received here from Vodina that the authorities of this district have paid to the inhabitants of Podzarsko the sum of 200 Turkish liras, the value as estimated by the Commission of Inquiry, of the property which was stolen from them by Bekir Pehlivan and his confederates; that eighteen Mahomedans who are accused of having taken an active part in the plunder of this village have been apprehended, and are being tried by the Commission; and that the Musteshar, Constantinidi Effendi, is carrying on the inquiry in an impartial manner, and doing his best to promote confidence, and calm the irritation and ill-feeling which were produced by the late events in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 475.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 17, 1877.

IMMEDIATELY on receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 12th instant, I caused inquiries to be made with regard to the punishment said to have been inflicted on the student of the Military College at Constantinople to which it referred.

The Sultan's first Chamberlain, Said Pasha, who is also Director of the institution in question, assured me in the most positive manner, that the story was altogether unfounded, and that no student had ever been bastinadoed since his appointment.

I have ascertained upon making further inquiries that, shortly after the dismissal of Midhat Pasha, when, as your Lordship will recollect, disturbances occurred in Constantinople, in which some members of the military schools took a part, one of them, when accused of this breach of discipline before the Minister of War, adhered persistently to his opinion, and was consequently placed under close arrest, where he still remains, but no corporal punishment has been inflicted upon him.

This is the only incident which I have been able to discover that might have served as a foundation for the report in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 476.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 347 of this date, forwarding to your Lordship the copy of a telegram addressed by the Roumanian Government to their Agent here, and communicated to me by that gentleman, instructing him to appeal to the Austro-Hungarian Government, as one of the Guaranteeing Powers, to use its influence at Constantinople, with a view to prevent the Principality being made a battle-field between Turkey and Russia, because it cannot oppose the march over its territory of the Russian army to the Danube, I am informed by M. Batatchano that Count Andrassy has written to Constantinople insisting strongly in the sense of M. Cogalniceano's telegram.

He has informed me also that he expects to learn to-morrow how far Count Andrassy may be disposed to support the proposal of his Government for neutralising Kalafat, which he has been instructed to make to his Excellency by a telegram, of which I inclosed a copy to your Lordship in my despatch No. 349 of this date.

I have already informed your Lordship in that despatch that, as the case in question is not provided for by the Treaty of Paris, Count Andrassy does not appear to anticipate the success of any representations which may be made at Constantinople in favour of the wishes of the Roumanian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 477.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 355.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 351 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that the Roumanian Agent appears to have been mistaken as to the action which Count Andrassy has taken at Constantinople, with a view to induce the Porte to respect the neutrality of the Principality.

In reply to my inquiries on the subject, Baron Orczy observed to-day that the Roumanian Government has always been advised by Count Andrassy to maintain a strictly neutral and passive attitude.

He also said that, on a question being recently addressed to the Porte as to whether it intended to send troops across the Danube, accompanied by a suggestion that it might be expedient to encourage Roumanian neutrality, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had answered that the occupation of the Roumanian bank of the river must be left entirely to the discretion of the military commanders, and that if a Russian invasion of the Principality should lead to such an occupation, no responsibility will attach to the Porte for the disastrous consequences, of which the population may have reason to complain.

The Austrian Government, therefore, consider that the representations would be fruitless which the Roumanian Government wish to be made at Constantinople by the Guaranteeing Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 478.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 358.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 22, 1877.*

ON receiving, last night, your Lordship's telegram communicating to me the answer which you had given to a telegram from Mr. Layard, reporting his conversation with the Grand Vizier, as to whether it might not yet be possible for the Porte to avoid war, by appealing to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, I wrote a few lines to Count Andrassy, of which I inclose a copy to be delivered to him this morning, acquainting him with the substance of your Lordship's reply to Mr. Layard, and asking for an interview, at which I hoped to be able to state to him the nature of the proposal which you had received from Constantinople.

Count Andrassy had thus time to think over the matter before I saw him to-day, and as I received in the morning a copy of Mr. Layard's telegram, I drew up the memorandum of its contents, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, and which I have read to his Excellency.

He made no remark upon the details of the measure recommended by Mr. Layard, but expressed serious doubts as to any mediation being accepted by Russia, as he had himself, on the 18th instant, suggested at St. Petersburgh that negotiations might be renewed if the Porte could be induced to send a representative of the Sultan to Kischeneff, which it would have done under normal circumstances, to compliment the Emperor Alexander on his arrival near the frontier, but who should also be authorized to negotiate an amicable settlement of the questions at issue between the two Governments. The suggestion, he said, had not been encouraged by Prince Gortchakow, who answered that the Italian Government had already made an abortive attempt at Constantinople to bring about a mediation, and that it was now too late to renew negotiations. His Excellency said also that, as the Russian manifesto has since been despatched, there appears to be no possibility of war being averted, and he seemed to think that it might be more easily localized without a mediation, but, as he was sent for by the Emperor, our conversation was extremely hurried, and I may not have correctly understood his observation upon that point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 478.

Memorandum of the Substance of a Telegram from Mr. Layard to Lord Derby, dated the 21st April, reporting a Conversation with the Grand Vizier.

THE Grand Vizier, who seemed more desperate than warlike, thought war inevitable, as the pecuniary resources of the country are exhausted, and that, though it would be possible to prolong negotiations, Turkey being without money must fight at once. He referred, however, to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris as the only hope of peace, and Mr. Layard suggested that if the Powers agreed to mediate, the Sultan might spontaneously decree disarmament, observing also that, if the Porte hoped to improve its position, the signal punishment would be necessary of those persons who had been concerned in the Bulgarian outrages, and it would also have to come to an honourable arrangement with its foreign creditors, and thus give a proof of its desire to conciliate and satisfy public opinion.

His Highness therefore promised to consult his colleagues upon the following points, namely, an appeal to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, disarmament should mediation be accepted, and arrangement with foreign creditors.

Mr. Layard, having no specific instructions on the subject, requested to be made acquainted as soon as possible with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to an appeal to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, which he considers to be the only chance, though a small one, of preventing war, as the Grand Vizier strongly objected to sending a Special Ambassador to St. Petersburgh. His Highness said that such a mission was not necessary for bringing about a disarmament, and he could not agree to have the whole Eastern question discussed at St. Petersburgh.

Inclosure 2 in No. 478.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, April 21, 1877.*

I HAVE received a telegram this evening from Lord Derby which I do not entirely understand, as it communicates to me an answer to a telegram which he received to-day from Mr. Layard, but of which he has not sent me a copy. I am not certain, therefore, whether it refers to a suggestion of Mr. Layard or to a proposal which has been made to him by the Porte; but though it expresses the fear of Her Majesty's Government that it is now too late for diplomatic action, it states that they would be ready to reply favourably to an appeal from the Porte to mediate, if Russia would accept a mediation, and if the other Powers would join in it.

I should like to speak to you to-morrow on the subject, and will call upon you at one o'clock, if it would be convenient for you to receive me at that hour; and in the meanwhile, I may possibly hear further from Lord Derby as to the nature of Mr. Layard's communication to him.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 479.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Arthur Evans' telegram respecting outrages at Otchievo, of which I forwarded a copy yesterday to Mr. Consul Holmes, I have now the honour to inclose an answer which I have received from him, stating that Mr. Evans' information, having been obtained from Slav sources, may be exaggerated or untrue, but that Mr. Freeman will proceed to Otchievo to ascertain the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN

Inclosure in No 479.

Consul Holmes to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Bosna Serai, April 21, 1877.*

NO knowledge here of these atrocities. I have directed Mr. Freeman to go to Glamosch to inquire about massacre of bridal procession notified to me by Lord Derby.

I shall now order him to go on to Otchievo and ascertain the truth. He will start Tuesday.

Mr. Evans can only obtain his information from Slav sources. It may be true, but according to my experience, may also be exaggeration, if not pure invention. Freeman, from long experience, will be much more capable.

No. 480.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 305.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 24, 1877.*

THE Duc Decazes said to me yesterday that he had made every effort to devise some course of action which might be recommended to the Porte, in order to obtain at least a suspension of hostilities from Russia. He had been utterly unable to discover any concession that the Porte could be induced to make which would be accepted by the Russians. The only possible solution of the question might have been the appeal, on the part of the Porte to the mediation of the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, and it was already, he feared, altogether too late even for that.

The Duke went on to observe that never, perhaps, had there been a war in which so little could be gained on either side. As for Turkey it was obvious that she had everything to lose and nothing to gain. On the other hand, it was certain that, after the declarations

made by the Emperor Alexander, Russia could make no acquisition of territory. Any other Power might appropriate to itself a portion of Turkey, but Russia was altogether precluded from doing so.

For his own part, the Duke would declare that France would preserve the most perfect and absolute neutrality. He should, indeed, be glad if he could find a stronger word than neutrality, to express the complete abstinence of France from anything like intervention.

The Duke went on to say that he earnestly hoped that the same absolute neutrality would be observed by England. If Her Majesty's Government joined the French Government in this policy, the time would, he was convinced, come, when the other Powers would be only too glad to invoke the assistance of France and England in bringing the Eastern question to a satisfactory solution.

I observed to the Due Decazes that England and France could hardly be said to stand in exactly the same position at the present moment with regard to this question. England was in what might be termed her normal political and military situation. There had been no disturbance of this situation which would warrant her in withdrawing temporarily from the active prosecution of her usual foreign policy. Her interest in the Eastern question was, moreover, at all times more direct than that of France. She could not acquiesce in any redistribution of territory which would diminish either her moral or her material supremacy in India. She could not allow the facility of her communications with India to be in any degree threatened or impaired. In particular, the question of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles was to her one of capital importance. It was essential to her interests to prevent the command of those Straits actually falling at this time into hands which might use it to her disadvantage; and it was hardly less essential to her to prevent the acquisition by any Power of a moral influence or a strategical position, which would facilitate its obtaining the command of the Straits at a future time.

Her Majesty's Government, were, I said, most anxious to confine the war within the narrowest limits, and to preserve the neutrality of England, but for my own part, I could not feel by any means sure that the attainment of these objects would be promoted by declarations beforehand of a positive determination to abstain in all contingencies from intervention.

The Duke said that undoubtedly the question of the Straits was a very important one to the Western Powers, and he added that the free navigation of the Danube also concerned them, although, of course, that was primarily interesting to Austria and Germany. It could not, he thought, be indifferent to the other Powers to see anything like a permanent establishment of Russia on the south bank of the Danube.

His Excellency then entered into some general considerations respecting the possibility of neutralizing the Danube and the Suez Canal; and he adverted to various difficult questions which might, he conceived, arise with regard to both these channels of communication, if Turkey and Russia were at war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 481.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 306. Very Confidential.)

Paris, April 24, 1877.

My Lord,

IT will not have escaped your Lordship's attention that, in the conversation of which a report is given in my immediately preceding despatch No. 305 of to-day, the Due Decazes treated it as absolutely certain that Russia would make no territorial acquisitions at the expense of Turkey. He seemed altogether to put out of sight the change of circumstances and the change of feelings which war would in all probability produce, and to be unwilling to remember the numerous instances in which disinterested professions and promises made before a war have, at the end of it, been forgotten by the victor.

Nor did the Due Decazes advert to the danger which might attend a separate negotiation between Russia and the Porte even before war.

Ten years ago there were certainly not a few Turks who thought that the safest course for them was to make the best terms they could with Russia, and thus secure a quiet life for some years. There were in fact then, and doubtless there are now, Turks preferring such an arrangement to having French and English troops in their territory to protect them. Circumstances might give predominance to such sentiments, and, at any

rate, the inclination to make terms at any price directly with Russia is likely to grow in proportion to the danger in which the Turks may find themselves, and to the improbability of their being extricated from it by the Powers of Europe.

It seems, therefore, not impossible that even before an actual defeat the Turks might, if they entered into direct negotiations with Russia, agree to terms disadvantageous not only to themselves, but to other Powers, and particularly to England. They might, for instance, agree to allow unrestrictedly the passage of Russian ships of war through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles.

I cannot affirm that England would certainly have the assistance of France in resisting such an arrangement.

In the first place, Frenchmen would be most unwilling to offend Russia, in whom they cherish the hope of sooner or later finding an ally against Germany.

In the second place, they fear that one of the results of the war may be the establishment of English preponderance in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.

They speak of this now with calmness, and even talk with a certain complacency of the commercial and financial advantages which might be the consequence of the supremacy of England in Egypt, which many of them look upon as inevitable. But this proceeds from the conviction that it would be too perilous for France to divert any portion of her forces from the defence of her own territory against Germany; that it would be imprudent for her to involve herself in any difficulties with other Powers, and particularly imprudent for her to quarrel with England. But she might, nevertheless, consider the increase of the Russian naval power in the Mediterranean as a less evil than the undisputed predominance of England in that sea.

It is easy to conceive circumstances in which the fleet of France would be one of the most important elements to be taken into account in dealing with the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 482.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 11·28 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 10 A.M.*

I HAD an interesting conversation yesterday with the Kashgar Envoy, who appears to be a very intelligent and well-informed man.

His views and information with regard to condition of Central Asia and the position of Russia in it seem to me well worth attention.

I think he should go to England at once, and I venture to suggest privately that the expenses of his journey and residence there should be paid.

No. 483.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 10·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, I have been informed by Mr. Blunt, who is here on his way to Adrianople, that the district of Philippopolis is one of the richest of European Turkey, and that it and the plains of Moritza would afford ample supplies to an invading army.

Mr. Blunt proceeds to his post to-day, and I have directed him to procure fullest information on this subject as soon as possible.

No. 484.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 2·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 23rd, you are carefully to avoid joining in any pressure which may be attempted to be put on the Khedive with reference to the amount of assistance which he shall send to the Porte.

No. 485.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
HER Majesty's Government approve the advice given by you to the Porte as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 486.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*
(Secret.)
IN reply to your Secret telegram of the 24th, Her Majesty's Government think it would be inexpedient, under present circumstances, for you to induce Turkish Government to invite fleet to Constantinople.

No. 487.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*
AS war has broken out between Russia and Turkey and England remains neutral, it will be impossible for Hobart Pasha to continue at once to hold his position as a Naval Officer in the British Service and to command the Turkish Navy. Intimate this to him.

No. 488.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Stanley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*
I AM informed that the "Romulus," with coal bound for Odessa, was warned off yesterday by the Russian authorities and not allowed to enter.
Another British vessel with general cargo bound for Odessa is also stated to have been warned off and ordered to Nicolaieff.
Have any and what regulations been made by the Russian authorities with regard to the entry and departure of neutral ships at Odessa and other Russian ports in the Black Sea.

No. 489.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*
ENDEAVOUR to ascertain from the Government to which you are accredited whether they propose to reply to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th, and in what sense.

No. 490.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 25, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*
RUSSIAN Circular not yet received here. Expected to-day. When the declaration of war is communicated Proclamation of Neutrality will be issued and Minister appointed to Constantinople.

[a] Identic telegrams were sent to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir A. Buchanan.

Yesterday Roumanian Agent communicated despatch asking Italian Government to urge the Porte to respect Roumanian neutrality. M. Melegari replied it was too late, especially in view of the circumstances of Roumania towards Russia.
Italian Consul-General at Bucharest reports that Roumania is preparing to oppose passage of the Danube by Turkish troops.

No. 491.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 2·20 P.M.*
SAID PASHA has just informed me that news have been received that the Russian troops have crossed the Armenian frontier, and that it is believed some skirmishes have already taken place between Turkish and Russian cavalry.

No. 492.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, April 25, 1877.*
RUSSIAN Minister has mentioned to Persian Government that General Franchini, formerly Military Attaché at Constantinople, now Chief of Daghistan and Turkoman Department at Tiflis, is coming here on his way to join Lomakine. The object of his taking this route is not apparent.

No. 493.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*
I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram from Mr. Vivian,[a] stating that warning has been given to the Khedive both by his French and Russian colleagues, that any assistance to Turkey will probably be punished by reprisals such as blockade of Egyptian ports, &c.
I lost no time in mentioning the report to the Russian Ambassador, as your Excellency will see from the accompanying copy of a despatch to Lord A. Loftus,[b] and his Excellency said that he had heard nothing of any intention of blockading Egypt, and characterized it as a pure invention.
Her Majesty's Government cannot but regard with some surprise the action reported to have been taken by the French Agent in Egypt in the matter. Without entering into any question as to the right of the Russian Government to blockade the Suez Canal, it must be obvious that an attempt to do so would inevitably provoke a collision with neutral countries, and Her Majesty's Government trust that the French Government will agree with them that the suggestion of such a design should not be countenanced by the Agents of neutral Powers, and had better be abandoned as imperilling the peace of Europe.
You are authorized to speak to the Duc Decazes in the sense of this despatch.
I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 494.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 16. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*
IN reply to your Excellency's inquiry by telegraph whether, in the case of Russian troops entering Moldavia, Her Majesty's Government would desire that the Porte should invite the British fleet to Constantinople in virtue of the IInd Article of the Treaty of 1871, I have to inform you that, under present circumstances, Her Majesty's Government are of

[a] No. 469. [b] No. 426.

opinion that it would be inexpedient that you should take any steps to induce the Porte to give any such invitation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 495.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 23.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of the language employed by Mr. Jocelyn to Safvet Pasha, as reported in his despatch No. 274 of the 9th instant, relative to the disorders which took place in the district of Adrianople, at Obroukli, and other villages, which were referred to in the letter from the "Times" correspondent published on the 16th of March last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 496.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 24.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Jocelyn's despatch No. 273 of the 9th instant, reporting a conversation which M. Marinitch had with Djevdet Pasha on the subject of the Genousch Khané and other outrages, I have to request your Excellency to furnish Djevdet Pasha with the list which he requested of those persons who were concerned in these outrages, and who have as yet escaped punishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 497.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 25.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

Sir,

I APPROVE Mr. Jocelyn's language to Safvet Pasha, as reported in his despatch No. 265 of the 6th instant, respecting the importance of appointing an efficient Governor-General at Erzeroom.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 498.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 7. Political.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 21st instant reporting that in consequence of fresh outrages at Otchievo having been notified to you by Sir A. Buchanan, you had instructed Mr. Freeman to proceed to that locality to investigate, and I have to express to you my approval of the steps thus taken by you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 499.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 245 A.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

HER Majesty's Government are desirous of ascertaining whether it is the intention of the Government to which your Excellency is accredited to return a reply to the Circular of Prince Gortchakow of the 19th instant, and, if so, in what sense.

I have, therefore, to request that your Excellency will place yourself in communication with the Duc Decazes on this subject, and that you will inform me of the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 500.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(No. 52. Political.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

I HAVE received your telegraphic despatch of yesterday's date, reporting that your French and Russian colleagues had warned the Viceroy that any assistance which might be rendered by Egypt to Turkey will probably be punished by reprisals, such as the blockade of ports on the Egyptian coast; and I have to instruct you to be careful to avoid joining in any pressure which may be attempted to be put upon His Highness the Khedive with reference to the amount of assistance which he shall send to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 501.

Lord Tenterden to Messrs. Ransomes and Co.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, requesting that the influence of Her Majesty's Government may be exercised with the Porte to spare the bombardment of Odessa during the course of any military operations which may be undertaken by the Turkish Government against Russia.

In reply I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; but I am to add that Lord Derby fears that Her Majesty's Government will be able to exercise little influence for the protection of private property at Odessa against damage from any military operations which may take place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 502.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd instant, relative to the vessels of war stationed at Constantinople and in the Danube, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request you to state to the Lords of the Admiralty that his Lordship considers it of the utmost importance that two vessels should be stationed in the Bosphorus during the present crisis.

I am to add that a telegram has this day been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that it would be advisable to station faster vessels there than the "Antelope" and "Rapid;" and I am to request you to move their Lordships to inform Lord Derby whether arrangements can be made accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir A. Paget.

No. 503.

Lord Tenterden to Lord G. Hamilton.

Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter from the Indo-European Telegraph Company,* requesting the intercession of Her Majesty's Government with the Porte in order to avert possible damage to the Company's lines in case of war between Russia and Turkey; and I am also to inclose copy of an instruction which his Lordship has accordingly addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 504.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Hardy, that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, suggesting that Sir A. Kemball should be placed directly under his orders, in order that he may be employed on service connected with the war between Russia and Turkey.

Mr. Layard proposes to send him to Erzeroom and the Armenian frontier; and I am to request you to state to Mr. Hardy that Lord Derby proposes with his concurrence to approve Mr. Layard's suggestion, and to inform the Treasury that during the present crisis it is proposed to employ Sir A. Kemball on this special service pending the resumption of the boundary negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 505.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 8·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*
(Secret.)

THE Sultan has sent Saïd Pasha, the head of his military household, to beg me on his part to represent to Her Majesty's Government that Russia without any previous declaration of war has suddenly crossed the Pruth and the Asiatic frontiers of Turkey, and has already commenced hostilities against her; that such a proceeding appears to His Majesty to be in violation of the usages of civilized nations and of international law; that Turkey had given no cause to Russia thus to treat her with insult and violence as if she were a dependent province. His Imperial Majesty under these circumstances makes an earnest appeal to Her Majesty's Government for their opinion and advice. He says that he must fight to defend himself, but is still ready to do anything that may be in his power to avoid a general war. I told Saïd Pasha that I would communicate Sultan's message to your Lordship, but the only advice I could give him was that the Turkish Government should act with the greatest possible prudence.

No. 506.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 10·45 P.M.)

Belgrade, April 25, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE MILAN informed me last night that the Grand Vizier had communicated to him the declaration of war with Russia.

His Highness told me that he desired to remain neutral, but if the Turks attempt to cross Servian frontier, they will be vigorously resisted.

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* No. 317.

† No. 346.

No. 507.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 10·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 6·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, the French and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires inform me that Russian Chargé d'Affaires held to them precisely the same language as he held to me, as reported to your Lordship.

The Russian Dragoman, when communicating the Chargé d'Affaires' note to the Porte, declared explicitly that it was not a declaration of war, and that immediate hostilities need not be apprehended.

The Turkish Government declare that the Russian troops had crossed the Asiatic frontier nine hours before Prince Gortchakow had sent his note to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh.

No. 508.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 7·30 P.M.*

MINISTER of War states that yesterday morning, six hours before the declaration of war, from 10,000 to 15,000 Russian troops entered Ottoman territory by way of Gumri, and advanced towards Batoum; they took prisoners the sentries at the outposts. Russians also invaded the Ottoman territory near Eursurghé and Akisha, their advance being opposed by irregular troops.

No news from Danube. Troops left to-day for Batoum.

No. 509.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, noon.*

TURKISH Government contemplate establishing at once search of all neutral vessels passing through Bosphorus, with a view to preventing arms and contraband of war being sent to Russia; to give a short delay to Russian merchant-ships to quit Turkish harbours, and to issue immediate orders for seizure of Russian vessels on the high seas.

I should be glad if Her Majesty's Government could inform me, with as little delay as possible, of their views on these points, as there may be still time for me to give advice to the Porte.

No. 510.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 9·47 P.M.*

I AM informed, on good authority, that the Khedive has undertaken to supply immediately 15,000 troops to the Porte, under the command of one of his sons.

No. 511.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 24 Avril, 1877.*

JE vous communique ci-après le télégramme que le Chargé d'Affaires à St. Pétersbourg m'a adressé en date d'aujourd'hui:—

"Le Prince Gortchakow vient de m'adresser une note me disant que les graves discussions que le Cabinet Russe a eu à poursuivre avec la Sublime Porte en vue d'une pacification durable de l'Orient n'ayant pas abouti à l'entente désirée, l'Empereur se voit forcé de recourir à la force des armes. Il me charge d'informer le Gouvernement Impérial

que la Russie se considère dès aujourd'hui comme en état de guerre avec la Turquie, et que par conséquent les relations diplomatiques cessent. Il ajoute en même temps que les sujets Ottomans qui désireraient rester en Russie sont pleinement assurés de jouir de la protection des lois."

No. 512.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 24 Avril*, 1877.

AVANT de quitter Constantinople, M. Nelidoff nous a informé que l'Ambassade d'Allemagne dans la capitale et les Consulats Allemands dans les provinces étaient chargés de la protection des sujets Russes en Turquie. De notre côté, et en attendant que la Sublime Porte ait pris une décision définitive en ce qui touche le séjour dans l'Empire des sujets Russes, nous désirons confier les intérêts de nos nationaux se trouvant en Russie au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, dont l'amitié et la bienveillance à notre égard nous permet d'espérer qu'il accueillera favorablement notre demande.

Je vous prie donc de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès de son Excellence Lord Derby, et de le prier au nom de la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien charger son Ambassade à St. Pétersbourg et ses Consuls en Russie de la protection des sujets Ottomans se trouvant en Russie, et notifier en même temps au Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg l'adhésion du Gouvernement Anglais à cette demande de la Sublime Porte.

No. 513.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 24 Avril*, 1877.

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Russie vient de remettre à la Sublime Porte une déclaration portant que la Russie a épuisé tous les moyens de conciliation pour rétablir une paix durable en Orient par une entente avec les Grandes Puissances et la Porte; que le rejet successif par le Gouvernement Ottoman des propositions qui lui ont été faites et le refus qu'il vient d'opposer au Protocole de Londres et à la Déclaration qui l'accompagnait, ne laissent pas d'espoir quant à une entente basée sur le bon vouloir de la Porte à offrir les garanties réclamées au nom de la paix générale; et qu'en conséquence Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie a prescrit à son Ambassade de rompre les relations diplomatiques, et qu'en même temps la Porte est rendue attentative à la grave responsabilité qui pèserait sur elle si la sécurité des nationaux Russes, ainsi que celle de tous les Chrétiens sujets du Sultan ou étrangers, était compromise sur quelque point que ce soit de l'Empire Ottoman. A la suite de cette déclaration, le personnel Diplomatique et Consulaire de la Russie ayant quitté le territoire, il devient évident que les relations pacifiques des deux Etats que les armements de la Russie avaient si profondément troublées dans ces derniers temps, se trouvent sur le point de faire place à des hostilités déclarées.

En présence de cette situation la Sublime Porte en est encore à se demander quels sont les motifs qui peuvent justifier des déterminations si graves de la part du Gouvernement Russe sur le point de déclarer la guerre à l'Empire Ottoman.

La Russie n'a pu alléguer, et de fait elle n'allègue, aucune lésion directe de ses droits, aucune de ces causes qui, en droit international, autorisent le recours aux armes. Les Traités internationals existants entre les deux Etats ont été scrupuleusement observés par le Gouvernement Ottoman; nulle part plus qu'en Turquie les intérêts moraux et matériels des sujets Russes n'ont été l'objet d'une protection si large et si efficace; le commerce et la navigation Russes n'ont subi aucune entrave dans les Etats de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et les égards que la Sublime Porte a toujours eus pour la Russie, en tant que Grande Puissance voisine, même au milieu des circonstances les plus difficiles, témoignent hautement du haut prix que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan a attaché au maintien de ses bonnes relations avec celui de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie. Aussi, comme justification de la rupture des relations diplomatiques, le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, par l'organe de son Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople, n'invoque-t-il que le rejet des propositions qui avaient été faites précédemment à la Sublime Porte, et la non-acceptation qui l'accompagnait.

Dans un moment aussi solennel, la Sublime Porte regrette de devoir opposer à l'affirmation du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, en ce qui concerne le refus par la Sublime Porte d'accepter les propositions qui lui ont été faites successivement, la dénégation la plus

absolue. Le Protocole de Londres constate que les Grandes Puissances, aussi bien que la Turquie, sont entièrement d'accord sur les réformes à réaliser; la tranquillité a été rétablie en Serbie, et l'on sait qu'il n'a tenu qu'au Prince du Monténégro de rétablir ses relations avec la Sublime Porte sur un pied avantageux. Tout cela est tellement incontestable que la Sublime Porte croit inutile d'insister plus longtemps pour établir que l'on essaie en vain de faire croire qu'il existe quelque divergence entre elle et les Grandes Puissances; et, si la Sublime Porte n'a pu accepter les garanties d'exécution contenues dans le Protocole de Londres, ni acquiescer aux conditions de pacification énumérées dans la Déclaration du Comte Schouvaloff y annexée, le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui regrette toujours de voir mettre sur la même ligne le Protocole du $\frac{12}{31}$ Mars et la Déclaration du Comte Schouvaloff y annexée, a déjà fait connaître aux Grandes Puissances les raisons qui font que sa déférence pour leurs conseils n'a d'autres limites que l'obligation de sauvegarder l'honneur et l'indépendance de l'Empire Ottoman. D'accord avec les Grandes Puissances quant au fond même des réformes, la Sublime Porte se demande si la Russie est autorisée à déclarer la guerre à l'Empire Ottoman au nom d'un acte qui, d'après les déclarations faites lors de sa signature, n'aurait de valeur qu'autant que la guerre n'aurait pas éclaté, à recourir aux armes seule entre tous les Signataires du Protocole, à attribuer à la Déclaration du Comte Schouvaloff un caractère obligatoire pour tous les Signataires du Protocole, à faire la guerre au nom de la paix générale, à déchaîner sur toutes les populations Musulmanes et Chrétiennes de l'Empire Ottomane des calamités effroyables pour mieux assurer leur bien-être, à mettre enfin en danger l'intégrité et l'indépendance de l'Empire pour rechercher les conditions de sa prospérité.

Les Grandes Puissances, à la haute sagesse desquelles ces vérités n'échapperont pas, apprécieront également la gravité et la portée de la déclaration par laquelle M. le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie a cru devoir rendre la Sublime Porte attentive aux prétendus dangers auxquels pourraient se trouver exposés non-seulement les nationaux Russes, mais tous les Chrétiens en général, sujets du Sultan ou étrangers. Si la situation des Chrétiens sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan était précaire au point de justifier la guerre dont la Russie menace l'Empire Ottoman, on ne comprendrait pas la valeur de la recommandation que le Représentant de Russie adresse à la Sublime Porte en quittant Constantinople. Mais il est encore plus étonnant que cette recommandation ait pour objet non-seulement tous les Chrétiens sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan, mais aussi tous les étrangers sujets des autres Puissances qui ont leurs Représentants accrédités auprès de la Sublime Porte. La Sublime Porte ne peut pas se rendre bien compte de la pensée qui a porté M. le Représentant de Russie à vouloir étendre sur tous les Chrétiens en général, sujets étrangers ou non, cette même pensée de protection qui avait suscité déjà la guerre d'il y a vingt ans, lorsque la Russie entendit en faire l'application aux seuls sujets Orthodoxes de Sa Majesté le Sultan. D'un autre côté, les Grandes Puissances apprécieront les déclarations que la Sublime Porte a réitérées sous les formes les plus catégoriques pour assurer l'Europe que les réformes promises par elle seront exécutées. Elles peuvent demeurer persuadées que le seul moyen d'en hâter la réalisation est celui que la Sublime Porte a déjà indiqué en demandant des assurances pour un désarmement immédiat et simultané, et en insistant à différentes reprises sur l'injustice qu'il y aurait à exiger d'elle l'application des réformes promises par des moyens qui empêchent qu'on puisse s'y livrer avec le calme qui est indispensable pour les faire aboutir.

En essayant de faire valoir auprès des Gouvernements amis qui montraient tant de sollicitude pour le bien-être de ce pays, les idées qui lui semblaient les plus propres à amener le résultat désiré, le Gouvernement Ottoman avait et a la conviction de remplir un devoir sacré, intéressée plus que tout autre à tout ce qui peut contribuer à raffermir l'ordre et la tranquillité de ses Etats. Sa Majesté le Sultan et son Gouvernement n'ont mis, je le répète, d'autres limites à leur déférence pour les conseils de l'Europe que celles qui leur étaient imposées par la nécessité de garantir de toute atteinte leurs droits souverains.

La pensée de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et de son Gouvernement étant parfaitement connue et affirmée d'une manière qui ne laisse place à aucun doute, ils ne voudraient pas s'exposer aux yeux du monde et de leurs propres populations au reproche de n'avoir pas essayé tous les moyens en leur pouvoir pour détourner des calamités qui semblent imminentes.

La Sublime Porte rappelle, par conséquent, l'Article VIII du Traité de Paris, ainsi conçu:—

"S'il survenait entre la Sublime Porte et l'une ou plusieurs des autres Puissances Signataires, un dissentiment qui menaçât le maintien de leurs relations, la Sublime Porte et chacune de ces Puissances, avant de recourir à l'emploi de la force, mettront les autres Parties Contractantes en mesure de prévenir cette extrémité par leur action médiatrice."

Bien que ce ne soit pas le Gouvernement Ottoman qui menace de prendre l'initiative de l'agression, et qu'en conséquence ce soit, à la rigueur, au Gouvernement Russe de faire appel à ces stipulations du Traité de Paris, le Gouvernement Impérial, afin d'éviter tout malentendu, s'adresse aux Puissances Signataires de ce Traité pour qu'elles veulent bien, dans les circonstances graves où il se trouve, faire l'application de l'Article susmentionné et mettre un terme à la tension si périlleuse qui affecte les relations des deux Etats, au moyen d'une action médiatrice conforme au droit et aux Traités. Indépendamment de toute stipulation de Traité, l'action des Puissances serait justifiée par la cause même que, d'après la déclaration de son Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople, la Russie voudrait donner aujourd'hui à son action militaire, en alléguant le refus de la Porte d'accéder aux propositions qui lui ont été faites par toutes les Puissances et à l'acte signé par elles.

En faisant remarquer que sa démarche répond ainsi exactement aussi bien aux prévisions de l'Article VIII du Traité de Paris qu'aux motifs de rupture invoqués par la Russie, la Sublime Porte exprime la conviction que les Puissances amies, fidèles au sentiment de bienveillant intérêt qu'elles n'ont pas cessé de témoigner à l'Empire Ottoman, saisiront cette occasion légitime d'arrêter l'explosion d'une grande guerre, et d'épargner ainsi à ces contrées les douloureuses extrémités dont elles sont menacées, et à l'Europe elle-même le trouble et le danger résultant d'un conflit entre les deux Etats—conflit dont la Sublime Porte est en droit de repousser toute la responsabilité.

Veuillez donner lecture et laisser copie de cette dépêche au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 514.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 26.*)

Constantinople, le 25 Avril, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Russie a déclaré la guerre à l'Empire Ottoman par une note remise par le Prince Gortchakow à notre Chargé d'Affaires à St. Pétersbourg dans la matinée d'hier, 24, et qui nous est parvenue le même jour.

Au même moment et peut-être même quelques heures avant, en tous cas avant que cette Déclaration ait pu parvenir à la Sublime Porte, l'armée Russe a commencé les hostilités en envahissant le territoire Moldo-Valaque et en franchissant la frontière Asiatique.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, vous voudrez bien signaler tout ce qu'un pareil procédé présente d'anormal et de contraire aux règles universellement observées par les Etats civilisés.

Je vous prie d'ajouter que la Sublime Porte proteste avec d'autant plus de raison contre ce procédé, que la Russie a déclaré la guerre sans avoir eu recours à la médiation des Puissances, comme l'Article VIII du Traité de 1856 lui en faisait un devoir. Vous rapprocherez ce mépris de la Russie pour les obligations internationales du soin qu'a pris la Sublime Porte, dès qu'elle a reconnu l'imminence d'une guerre avec la Russie, de saisir la Puissances amies d'une demande formelle de médiation, tant dans l'intérêt de la paix Européenne que dans une pensée d'humanité.

Nous espérons que les Gouvernements de l'Europe, aussi bien que l'opinion publique, apprécieront ces faits et en tiendrant compte lorsqu'ils sauront déterminer la part de responsabilité qui incombe à chacun des deux Etats dans le conflit armé qui vient d'éclater.

No. 515.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26.*)

Galatz, April 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

1,600 cavalry, 900 infantry, 2 field batteries, each of 6 guns, passed through Galatz. 200 cavalry, 2,000 infantry at Ismail. Railway making from Marash(este) to Buzen.

No. 516.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 25, 1877, 11 P.M.*

FROM Monson, dated to-day, to Lord Derby:—

"I received your telegram of yesterday, which was the first intimation here of the rupture of relations.

"Prince Nicholas informs me that he will remain for the present on the defensive. He has reports of the advance of the Turkish troops in the Herzegovina, and is in constant communication with the Austrian Agent as to their probable operations.

Being too unwell to go myself, I have sent Mr. Bland to Scutari with the cypher and with instructions to urge the punctual fulfilment of the convention for the grain transport, about which His Highness is most anxious. I have prepared Prince Nicholas for the probability of my speedy departure for Vienna, which, however, I wish to arrange so as to avoid its being put to a mischievous significance by the Russian Agent. Of course, I await your Lordship's orders on this subject.

No. 517.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 11 P.M.*

I HAVE seen draft Manifesto of Turkish Government with regard to Russian subjects and vessels and commerce of neutrals.

Firstly. It gives Russian subjects five days to leave Ottoman territories; those who remain are to be placed under authority and protection of Turkish laws, tribunals, and administration.

Secondly. Five days are given to Russian vessels to leave Ottoman ports, but they are not to be allowed to pass Straits from the Mediterranean into the Black Sea and *vice versâ*.

Thirdly. Porte declares its intention of adhering to rules of maritime law laid down in the Declaration of Paris.

Fourthly. In order to prevent contraband of war, Porte will exercise rights of visit on high seas, in Ottoman waters, and with regard to neutral vessels on their passage through the Straits, bound for a Russian port or for a point on the coast occupied by the enemy, and even, in case of suspicious vessels, when bound for an Ottoman or neutral porte.

Fifthly. These regulations are to enter immediately into operation, and to be communicated to foreign Representatives at Constantinople, and to be inserted in the "Official Gazette."

The Khedive, in making known these regulations, shall state that they apply to the Suez Canal, as well as to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

No. 518.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1877.*

I AM informed, on good authority, that the Sultan has expressed his determination to join his army on the Danube, and has declared that if defeated he would die in battle rather than return to Constantinople. He has addressed a proclamation to the commanders of troops in Europe and Asia which is temperate and dignified. He states that Russia has declared war against Turkey, and that, consequently, relying upon the aid of God and the Prophet, she is, on her side, compelled to have recourse to arms; that it is known to them that he has always desired peace and tranquillity, and that, although with arms in his hand, he has had but one desire in his heart, peace; that he has listened to the counsels of friendly Powers, and had laboured with them to obtain this result, but the enemy of Turkey, with the object of destroying her rights and independence and the country, has shown that he will not be satisfied without their sacrifice. On this account, without legitimate motive, Russia has attacked Turkey.

The Sultan expresses his reliance upon God for the protection of life and justice, and

his hopes that his soldiers will defend the glory and honour of the Ottoman name and flag. He salutes the general officers and soldiers, and relies upon their defending against the enemy those positions which secure the rights, honour, and independence of the Ottomans. He prays for them and assures them that the nation will take under its protection the children and wives of its soldier brothers. If necessary he will take the sacred flag of the Khalifat and Sultanship and will join them, and will be ready to sacrifice his life in the cause of right, honour, and the independence of his country. May God, he ends, give us victory!

No. 519.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26, noon.*)

Paris, April 26, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks that Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th should not be answered at all; that an answer would only produce inconvenient controversy.

No. 520.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26, 1·40 P.M.*)

Berlin, April 26, 1877, 12·32 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THE German Government do not intend to reply in writing to the notification of Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th, the Minister for Foreign Affairs having already acknowledged the receipt virtually when it was communicated by the Russian Ambassador on the 24th instant.

No. 521.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877, 2·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
ASK the Russian Government whether they consider the present state of relations with Turkey as constituting a state of war.

It is necessary that we should have from them an official statement on this point.

No. 522.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26.*)

Tehran, April 26, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I REQUESTED Persian Minister to inform the Shah that the Porte had agreed to send a Commissioner to Medina to investigate the alleged outrage there, and to punish those proved guilty, and to invite the Shah's brother to come to Constantinople.

At a second interview yesterday, the Minister assured me that His Majesty had approved of these arrangements. He further informed me that this has been communicated by telegram to Persian Minister at the Porte.

No. 523.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26.*)

Tehran, April 26, 1877, 1·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th, I have ascertained that the Persian Minister at Constantinople has not full powers to conclude a Treaty with Turkey. The Sultan having alluded to the subject, he was authorized to talk it over, but was ordered to put nothing on paper.

No. 524.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877, 3·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th, tell Sir A. Kemball that Her Majesty's Government request him to consider himself directly under your orders.

They wish him to proceed at once to the seat of war in Asia Minor.

No. 525.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April 26, 6 P.M.*)

Rome, April 26, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Russian Circular was only presented yesterday, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs desires to consult his collegues as to terms in which it should be answered. In his Excelleney's opinion it might be confined to a simple acknowledgment, with the expression of the regret that the efforts of the Powers to preserve peace have been unsuccessful, and the hope that the final result of the war may be in the interests of civilization and humanity.

Yesterday Turkish Minister communicated the appeal(?) of the Porte for mediation under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. M. Melegari replied that he had already signified willingness of the Italian Government to take part with other Powers in mediation if it was accepted by Russia, but feared it was now too late.

If anything is feasible, M. Melegari thinks Porte should endeavour to act before hostilities actually commence.

No. 526.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Lingen.

(Confidential.)
Foreign Office, April 26, 1877.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to instruct the Commissioners of Customs to desire the officers of Customs at the several ports to report at once, and from time, to time whether any vessels of war are being constructed at ports within their districts, and if so, all particulars concerning them, in order that Her Majesty's Government may be enabled to decide what course should be taken with respect to any such vessels building on account of foreign belligerent Governments or likely to be transferred to them when built.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 527.

Lord Tenterden to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you the accompanying telegrams from Mr. Layard, reporting that the Turkish Government is about to issue certain regulations with regard to the treatment of Russian subjects and vessels, and the exercise of search and visit of neutral merchant-vessels proceeding through the Bosphorus to Russsian ports or to places in the occupation of Russia.

Mr. Layard desires to be furnished, with as little delay as possible, with the views of Her Majesty's Government on the proposed regulations; and I am to request that you will favour Lord Derby with your opinion, at your earliest convenience, as to any instructions which should be sent to Mr. Layard in reply, and with any observations which may occur to you on the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 528.

Lord Tenterden to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877.

Gentlemen,

HER Majesty's Government having received intelligence that the Russian forces have crossed the Turkish frontier, and Her Majesty being resolved to maintain the strictest neutrality, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will immediately prepare a draft of Proclamation notifying her resolution, and also a draft of letter to the Board of Admiralty, Treasury, Colonial Office, War Office, and India Office announcing Her Majesty's resolution.

To facilitate the preparation of these documents I am to transmit to you copies of those issued for the same purpose at the breaking out of war between France and Germany in 1870, together with a copy of the Report of the Neutrality Laws Commissioners, in the Appendix to which will be found the documents of the same kind issued on previous occasions.

I am to add that Lord Derby would be glad to receive your reply as soon as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 529.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 153.) *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to inquire whether the Russian Government consider the present state of their relations with Turkey as constituting a state of war.

It is necessary that Her Majesty's Government should have an official statement from the Russian Government on this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 530.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 248.) *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 305 of the 24th instant, reporting a conversation which you have had with the Duc Decazes on the subject of the present crisis in the affairs of the East, and the attitude which it would be desirable, in your Excellency's opinion, for England and France to preserve in the presence of hostilities between Russia and Turkey. I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to the Duc Decazes in the course of the conversation in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 531.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 29.) *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegraphic despatch of the 24th instant, I have to instruct you to inform Sir A. Kemball that Her Majesty's Government request him to consider himself directly under your Excellency's orders.

They desire that he should at once proceed to the seat of war in Asia Minor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 532.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 38.) *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from Messrs. Ransomes and Co.,* invoking the good offices of Her Majesty's Government to prevent the bombardment of Odessa in any military operation which may be undertaken during war between Russia and Turkey; and I likewise inclose a copy of the reply which I have caused to be made to this communication.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 533.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 39.) *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador has this day communicated to me the accompanying telegraphic despatch from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which, after replying to the declaration of Russia suspending diplomatic relations with the Porte, he appeals to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris to act upon the VIIIth Article of that Treaty, and to mediate between Russia and Turkey.

I stated to Musurus Pasha that I would refer this communication to my colleagues, but I added that I feared that this appeal had been made too late.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 534.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, April* 26, 1877.

RESIDENCY steamer has a crew of Turkish subjects liable to recall at any moment by Turkish Government; can twenty men and an officer be sent from the ships-of-war in the Persian Gulf?

No. 535.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, April* 26, 1877, 1·20 P.M.

NO English vessels have been prevented entering Odessa. "Romulus" arrived yesterday and is discharging.

Belgian steamer was ordered by Customs to discharge at Nicolaieff. Governor protested and telegraphed Petersburgh and order was countermanded.

All vessels arriving or leaving Odessa must be navigated by Russian crews, their own masters and crews going below while passing through mined channel. This applies equally to Russian vessels.

I sent copy of regulations and of my letter to Governor on Tuesday.

No. 536.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 26, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

TURKISH Government inform me that the Russians have sustained defeat from Turkish volunteers commanded by Ali Pasha at Tchuruk Su, near Batoum, with loss of 800 killed and wounded.

Turkish iron-clads are bombarding Poti.

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* No. 340. † No. 501.

No. 537.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 26, 1877, 6·45 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

I WAS told at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day that Count Andrassy had not yet taken any decision as to answering the Russian Circular of the 19th instant.

My Italian colleague is of opinion that, as a simple acknowledgment of its receipt might be misrepresented as an adherence to its assumptions, the safest course is to leave it without any reply.

No. 538.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 26, 1877, 8·15 P.M.*

SINCE forwarding previous telegram this afternoon relative to Russian Circular, I have seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, who told me that he had telegraphed to Count Beust that as an answer had not been asked for, an acknowledgment of receipt of the Circular would suffice. On my asking him, however, whether he had considered the possibility of a simple acknowledgment being interpreted as a tacit admission of the validity of the grounds on which Russia had declared war, he said that though he thought this unlikely to occur it might be better to do nothing whatever, and he authorized me to inform his Lordship that he would follow that course.

No. 539.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 26, 1877, 8·30 P.M.*

I LEARN from Turkish Ambassador that Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated to him that as Russia will not send troops into Servia as long as the Porte abstains from occupying any part of the Principality, he has instructed Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to ask for a declaration that Servian neutrality will be strictly respected; and he expressed at the same time an opinion that the Porte need be under no apprehension of the Principality engaging in war.

No. 540.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 26, 1877, 9 P.M.*
(Very Confidential.)

I THINK it my duty to inform your Lordship that the language held here by Russian society in general, although bearing no official character, leads to the supposition that it is intended to push on with concentrated force to Constantinople.

No. 541.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 47. Political.) *Belgrade, April 20, 1877.*
My Lord,

M. RISTITCH informed me to-day that, as Safvet Pasha has asked the Servian Agent at Constantinople if it was true that the Russian Government were making arrangements with Servia for the passage of troops across the Danube from Roumania, he had instructed his Agent at Constantinople to assure Safvet Pasha, in the most positive manner, that no such arrangements had been made, and that the Russian Government had never as much as insinuated a probability of a landing being effected in that locality, or ever expressed a wish that Servia should be prepared for such an event.

M. Ristitch maintains that Russia, having given her consent to the re-establishment of peace between Servia and the Porte, is not likely now to create for them new difficulties by threatening to attack the Turks from Servian soil.

It is obvious that Prince Milan and his Government apprehend that the Turks, with the view to prevent the Russians landing in Servia and operating on their flank, may cross their frontier near Widdin, a contingency which the Government here desire to be pointed out to the Porte as likely to provoke fresh hostilities.

A violation of Servian territory by the Porte would, M. Ristitch assures me, be here most strenuously opposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 542.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 313.) *Paris, April 26, 1877.*
My Lord,

I ASCERTAINED last night from the Duc Decazes that, in his opinion, it would be unadvisable that the several Governments should make any answer to the Circular dated the 19th instant, in which Prince Gortchakow announced to them that the Russian armies were ordered to cross the frontier of Turkey.

The Duke said that it would be impossible to answer the Circular without provoking a controversy which would be very inconvenient and embarrassing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 543.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 314.) *Paris, April 26, 1877.*
My Lord,

THE Duke told me this afternoon that Halil Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, had communicated to him a despatch from the Porte appealing to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, and calling upon the Powers to mediate between Russia and Turkey.

The Duke had, he said, observed to Halil Pasha that there were two branches of the question: there was, first, the difference between the Porte and all the Powers, produced by the rejection of the Protocol, and in the second place there was the special quarrel between Turkey and Russia. In order to put the other Powers into a position to mediate the Porte must set herself right with them. In short the first step for the Porte to take was to signify its acceptance of the Protocol. There would then remain the questions of a cessation of hostilities and of disarmament, and upon these questions mediation might perhaps be feasible.

Halil Pasha had not, the Duke said, appeared to acquiesce in this reasoning, but had rather argued that, irrespectively of all other considerations, the Powers were obliged by the Treaty to mediate.

The Duke told me that he had telegraphed to London, Berlin, Rome, and Vienna, to ascertain the opinions of the other Powers on the Turkish appeal for their mediation, but that, for his own part he had very little hope of its arresting the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 544.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 315.) *Paris, April 26, 1877.*
My Lord,

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 244 of yesterday, on the subject of the communication said to have been made by the French Agent at Cairo to the Khedive, on the subject of the reprisals which would be taken by Russia, if assistance was given by Egypt to the Sultan.

I spoke to the Duc Decazes this afternoon in the sense of that despatch, and I said in

particular that it did not appear to Her Majesty's Government that the suggestion of a design such as that of blockading the Coast of Egypt should be countenanced by the Agent of a neutral Power.

Finally, in order that the Duc Decazes might fully understand the views of Her Majesty's Government, I put the despatch into his hand, and allowed him to read it.

The Duke said that he had given no instructions to the French Agent in Egypt which would imply any disposition on the part of France to countenance a blockade of the ports of that country. On the contrary, he held that Russia ought not to interfere with the trade of other nations in any part of the Levant.

He had, however, on hearing that the Sultan had applied to the Khedive for money, desired that His Highness might be reminded that he was not at liberty to divert to any other purposes the revenues which were pledged for the payment of the Egyptian Debt.

The Duke concluded by saying that he was told that British ships-of-war had been sent to Alexandria and to Port Said, and he begged me to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that the effect, and particularly the effect on public opinion in Europe, would be good if England and France acted in concert on such occasions, and if their ships-of-war arrived together in cases where a naval demonstration might be deemed advisable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 545.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

St. Petersburgh, April 26, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has replied in a private letter to my official inquiry as instructed by your Lordship, that "we are incontestably in a state of war with Turkey."

No. 546.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

Trebizond, April 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PASHA received last night telegram stating that Russians crossed yesterday Turkish Asiatic frontier.

No. 547.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, 9·15 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 26, 1877, 11·45 A.M.

(Most Confidential.)

FOREIGN military authorities here appear to concur with some of ours in thinking that Turkish army on the Danube is so ill-distributed that Russians may have a signal success, and make much more rapid advance on Constantinople than might be expected. I can form no opinion on the subject, but I think it right to give your Lordship this information.

No. 548.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 12·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GREEK Minister states to me that, for the present, there is no reason to apprehend any movement on the part of the Greeks against Turkey, but that if the Turkish army suffers a signal defeat, Greek Government will no longer be able to restrain their people, and that an attempt will be made to invade and raise Thessaly and Macedonia. He says that he has frankly told this to the Porte, and warned it to lose no time in making the concession to Crete demanded by its Christian population, in order to avoid immediate difficulties.

No. 549.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, 10·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 27, 1877, 8 A.M.

SIR A. KEMBALL will start for the seat of war in Asia Minor without delay, but suggests, as the line of operations is extensive, a staff of officers to assist him is urgently required: proposes Captains Trotter, R.E.; Macalmont, Cavalry; and Fyfe, Staff Corps; who have volunteered.

No. 550.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, *noon.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 27, 1877, 9·30 A.M.

PORTE is, I am informed, much discouraged by the action of the Austrian Government in stopping the entry into Turkey of 800 horses, which it had purchased a short time ago.

No. 551.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 27, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

THE Porte has prepared a Manifesto with reference to the war, which will be published at once. After a lengthy recital of preceding events, from its point of view, the Porte accuses Russia of enforcing by arms her ambitious policy, and declares that she will find on her path a whole people armed for the defence of their territories and hearths, and for the maintenance of the rights of their Sovereign and the independence of their country. Europe should know the truth, and, whether in victory or defeat, Turkey should be relieved from all responsibility of the war. It therefore affirms that the Christians of Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria rose at the instigation of Slav Committees organized and paid by Russia; that Servia and Montenegro took up arms against their Suzerain at her invitation; that they only sustained the struggle by her aid, and that all the evils that have befallen Turkey during the last two years are due to the ostensible and secret, but always present, action of Russia. Europe is invited to be the judge of these facts. Russia is declared to be the enemy of both Christians and Mussulmans. She pretends to have armed to protect the Christians at a time when the most liberal Constitution has been granted, placing all Ottomans on a complete equality. Turkey has invited Russia and the other Powers of Europe to see and judge.

Russia has answered by a declaration of war without first asking for mediation, as she was bound to do under the Treaty of Paris. In violation of all rules observed in such cases by civilized States, she notified her declaration of war to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh at the same time that she broke off her relations with the Porte by her own Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople; but, the night preceding the declaration of war, she had already invaded the Ottoman territory. History will record these facts.

The Ottoman army is about to march against the aggressor, to defend the sacred principles of national independence and the honour and dignity of the people and of their Sovereign, and to repel the most odious and criminal of enterprises.

Let God protect the right.

No. 552.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, 4·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Secret.) *Constantinople, April* 27, 1877, 1 P.M.

I HAVE had a very confidential conversation with Bluhm Pasha. He is ill-satisfied with the manner in which Turkish army in Europe is distributed, and anticipates reverses which may bring Russians across the Balkan much sooner than is expected.

He says that he has offered advice in vain.

If Her Majesty's Government thought it possible and desirable to send some English officer of experience and weight out here, who might influence Turkish counsels before it is too late, it might be of great importance to do so.

I venture to mention the name of Sir Collingwood Dickson to Lord Beaconsfield, as he is known to the Turks, and formerly had much influence over them. As General Kemball is going to Asia Minor, and Colonel Lennox is on the Danube, there will be no British officer here to advise and assist me.

No. 553.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 1·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING has been communicated to me to-day by Minister for Foreign Affairs: 2,000 Djaf families ready to serve eventually, and even ask for cannon. 20,000 tomans paid to artillery. Orders sent to complete as soon as possible provisions of war. There is an understanding between Russians and Persians, who are preparing an attack on Turkish frontier.

It appears that the negotiations hitherto pursued between the Russian Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs at Tehran resulted in a project of common action between Persia and Russia against Turkey, and in the conclusion of a Treaty to that effect.

No. 554.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, 6·50 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" left Constantinople for the Danube the day before yesterday.

No. 555.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, 6·51 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to Porte assurances conveyed to Count Andrassy by Prince Gortchakow that Russian troops will not enter Servia at all.

No. 556.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

Tehran, April 27, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Minister here yesterday saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He formally announced the declaration of war, and called upon the Persian Government to state what attitude they meant to assume. In view of the policy of neutrality hitherto followed by Persia, he ended by making certain proposals, the nature of which I have not yet learnt, their object being to induce Persia to rise against Turkey.

These are at present under consideration, but no decision has yet been come to.

No. 557.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MAIL routes to England *viâ* Varna and Odessa closed. Only routes open *viâ* Marseilles, Wednesdays, and Trieste, Saturdays.

No. 558.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

BRITISH steam-ship owners are inquiring what is the position of steamers now on passage to Galatz and Nicolaieff. In case of blockade, will such vessels be admitted and allowed to load?

No. 559.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, 7 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed by the Minister of Marine that the Black Sea ports will be declared blockaded.

About twenty ships, including iron-clads, under the command of Achmet Pasha and Mustapha Pasha, have received orders to cruize on the Russian coast, and to bombard it if necessary. The maritime force will act conjointly in the direction of the Crimea.

Hobart Pasha is to command squadron in the Archipelago; he is now on the Danube with the Commander-in-chief of the land forces, and he will attempt to force his passage down, which the Russians have intercepted. The Turkish squadron on the Danube is composed of more than twenty ships, including iron-clads, under the command of Arif Pasha.

The Russian coast being defended by torpedoes, the Turkish squadron is provided with the necessary apparatus for taking them up. The Archipelago squadron at present commanded by Hussein Pasha will cruize between Crete and Greece to prevent conveyance of contraband of war to the insurgents. Should Greece openly encourage revolutionary measures in Crete, the fleet will blockade Cretan ports.

I have been assured that orders have been issued to Military Commandants of Pera to punish with exemplary severity all acts of insubordination committed by troops, who are forbidden to be out of barracks after nightfall, or unprovided with money.

No. 560.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 152.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.

THE Austrian Ambassador told me to-day that his Government were of opinion that it would be impossible to answer the Russian Circular without entering into discussions on the rights of the question, and that they feared that this discussion might result in showing divergences of opinion among the Powers, which it would be better to avoid.

There were, therefore, but two alternatives: either simply to acknowledge receipt of the Circular, or to abstain from any reply.

But as an acknowledgment of receipt, though not equivalent to an explicit acquiescence in the contents of the document, still amounts to what is called in diplomatic language taking cognizance ("prendre acte") of it; and as on the other hand the Russian Government has neither ordered its Representatives to leave copy of it, nor to invite any answer, the Austrian Government think it will be most in conformity with their view to leave the Circular unanswered.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 561.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 153.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

Sir,

COUNT BEUST mentioned to me this afternoon that the Austrian Ambassador at Paris reported the Duc Decazes to have told Khalil Pasha, in reply to the Turkish Circular, that the Porte must first explicitly accept the Protocol of London, and that it was only afterwards that there could be any question of a mediation on the subject of disarmament.

He added that Count Andrassy had, in answer to this communication, informed Count Wimpffen that the Austrian Government had made an attempt at mediation before the declaration of war both at St. Petersburgh and Constantinople, which had unfortunately failed, and that they believed, in consequence, that such a step would have still less chance of success now that war was declared; that they thought, on the contrary, that it might give rise to divergences among the Powers which might tend to prevent the localization of the war.

The Austrian Government were, therefore, determined not to take any initiative in the matter, but they would not refuse to join in any step of this nature taken by the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 562.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 157.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador in London has communicated to me a telegram from his Government stating their wish to place Turkish subjects in the Russian Empire under the protection of the British Ambassador and Consuls during the suspension of relations between Turkey and Russia.

I have informed Musurus Pasha of the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to comply with the request of the Porte, and I have accordingly to authorize you, when the occasion arises, to use your good offices, so far as you can properly do so, for the protection of the subjects of His Majesty the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 563.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 40.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day, and communicated a note from his Government, asking whether Her Majesty's Government would undertake the protection of Turkish subjects in Russia.

I said that I thought that it might have been better, under all the circumstances, if the request had been addressed to some other Government, but I could not refuse to comply with it.

I have accordingly addressed the instruction, of which a copy is inclosed, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, directing his Excellency to use his good offices, as occasion may require, so far as he can properly do so, for the protection of Turkish subjects in the Russian dominions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 564.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 42.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

I HAVE to state to you that several British steam-ship owners have addressed to me inquiries as to what is the position of steamers now on their passage to Galatz and Nicolaieff; and I should wish to be informed whether, in case those ports are blockaded, such vessels will be admitted and allowed to load.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 565.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 49.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called yesterday, and left with me a telegram from his Government, expressing the desire of the Porte for the mediation of the Powers signataries of the Treaty of Paris. I told Musurus Pasha that the application in question appeared to me to be in strict conformity with the terms of the Treaty, and that Her Majesty's Government would have been prepared to comply with the request of the Porte if they had entertained any hope that such interference on their part would be effective. The present moment, however, appeared inopportune, as it could not be supposed that a Government which had actually declared and commenced war would suspend its military operations before any result had been accomplished, in order to enter into a fresh negotiation for peace.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 566.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Gourley, M.P.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that it appears, from a telegram received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, that the "Romulus" arrived there on the 25th instant, and commenced at once to discharge her cargo.

A Belgian steamer was ordered by the Customs to discharge at Nicolaieff, but the Governor protested, and telegraphed to St. Petersburgh, and the order was countermanded.

Mr. Stanley further reports that all vessels arriving or leaving Odessa must be navigated by Russian crews, their own masters and crews going below while passing through the mined channel. These regulations apply equally to Russian vessels.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 567.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you herewith the decypher of a telegram from Her Majesty's Special Ambassador at Constantinople,* stating that Sir A. Kemball is about to start for the seat of war in Asia Minor forthwith, and suggesting that he should be assisted by certain officers named in the telegram; and I am to request that you will move Mr. Secretary Hardy to favour Lord Derby with his opinion on this suggestion to this proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

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* No. 549.

No. 568.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 31. Political.)

Scutari, April 17, 1877.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY afternoon I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that the Miridite resistance against the Turkish troops had collapsed, and that Prenk Bib Doda had written to the Austrian and French Consuls, placing himself and his family and adherents under their protection, and requesting their intervention to obtain from the Turkish Government a suspension of the coercive measures against Mirdicia.

M. Wassich and M. Ceccaldi communicated to M. Berio and me,—their only remaining colleagues,—Prenk Bib Doda's letter, of which the inclosed are a copy and a translation, and also furnished us with a copy of the note they had addressed to the Governor-General (Inclosure 2).

We agreed with them that nothing further could be done in Scutari itself in order to bring about an understanding between the Turkish authorities and the Miridites.

Prenk Bib Doda, in this moment of trial, has evidently recollected that he has been for a long time past a pensioner both of France and Austria, and by his appeal to them only for protection he has, no doubt, wished to mark the connection that has subsisted between them.

Although the Mirdite resistance has come to a sudden end, I am not of opinion that, if the war with Montenegro is renewed by the Turks with the same ill-success of the past campaign, it is unlikely that the Mirdites will renew the attempt to fulfil the promises made to Montenegro, provided the latter, on its part, furnishes the stipulated money, arms, and ammunition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 568.

Prenk Bib Doda to MM. Wassich and Ceccaldi.

Orosci, April 14, 1877.

(Translation.)

AFTER the first three fights of the 8th, 10th, and 11th of the current month, in the neighbourhood of Mnella, the flag of Dibri, whose elders were corrupted with money, no longer wished to fight, and, consequently, the road remained open for the Turks to advance upon Orosci.

This is the news that has now (noon) reached me; as also I received this morning the news that seven battalions had entered Giafa Malet, with no explanations how this had happened. These occurrences convinced me that treason opened to them the road; so, seeing that further resistance could bring no advantage to this people, and in order to avoid a useless effusion of its blood, I, my family, and its adherents, put ourselves under the powerful ægis of the two exalted Governments of Imperial and Royal Austria-Hungary and of the French Republic, not without earnest prayer that they may use their high influence for a cessation of hostilities on the part of the Ottoman troops against Mirdicia.

Sure that these noble Consulates will not wish to abandon us in this critical circumstance and position, and awaiting a reply by return of courier, I have, &c.

(Signed) PRENK BIB DODA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 568.

MM. Wassich and Ceccaldi to Mustafa Pasha.

LES Soussignés, M. le Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie et M. le Consul de la République Française, ont l'honneur de faire connaître à son Excellence Mustafa Pacha qu'ils vient de recevoir de Prenk Pacha une lettre où il les informe qu'il reconnaît l'inutilité d'une résistance plus prolongée.

Ils prient son Excellence de vouloir bien prendre acte de cette communication, et d'agreer, &c.

(Signé) WASSICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.

Scutari, le 16 Avril, 1877.

(Translation.)

THE undersigned, the Consul-General of Austria-Hungary and the Consul of the French Republic, have the honour to let his Excellency Mustafa Pasha know that they have just received from Prenk Pasha a letter in which he informs them that he admits the inutility of a further resistance.

They beg his Excellency to be good enough to take note of this communication, and to receive, &c.

(Signed) WASSICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.

Scutari, April 16, 1877.

No. 569.

Acting Consul Joly to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 1. Political.)

Smyrna, April 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two letters which I have lately received from Mr. Vedova, at Thyra, and Mr. Montesanto, the British Consular Agent at Cassaba, relative to some disturbances which have taken place in those towns. As rather exaggerated accounts of these occurrences have been published in the local newspapers, I consider it my duty to forward the inclosed to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN JOLY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 569.

Mr. Vedova to Vice-Consul Joly.

Thyra, April 15, 1877.

Sir,

ON my return to Thyra, I made special inquiries about the cause and disturbances as reported by the papers, and find it was somewhat exaggerated; it is, however, a fact that on the Greek Easter Sunday, the 9th instant, at about an hour and a-half after sunset, several Turks (young students) proceeded in procession to the Greek quarters with banners and crosses in mockery to the Christian ceremony of that day; one or two Greeks intervened, and several blows ensued, at which state of affairs, the local authority being informed, the Kaïmakam himself, at the head of the police, proceeded to the immediate arrest of the ringleaders, and timely suppressed a riot that might have proved of a serious nature.

We enjoy at present the greatest tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY VEDOVA, *Consular Agent.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 569.

Mr. Montesanto to Vice-Consul Joly.

Cassaba, April 14, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to bring under your notice an injustice done to a Greek Christian in the district of my agency. The facts are as follows:—

On the Saturday before Good Friday (Greek) a certain Hadji Molla, from a village called Dervent, about four miles off, had to receive some money from a certain shepherd, who is a Greek Christian; this Turk, Hadji Molla, found this Christian (shepherd) in the bazaar and cruelly beat him, because the man could not pay him on the spot, and swore in the most vulgar and outrageous language, in words which can only be uttered by a Turk to a Giaour. A Greek merchant, B. Vithlemidhi, seeing the injustice done by the Turk to the Christian, summoned him before the local authorities, who liberated the offender through bribery, and that is all the justice the poor shepherd got.

The next case that has come under my knowledge lately, is as under:—

A certain (Turk) called H. Memet, an inhabitant of the place, who, under pretence of buying bread, went to a Christian baker to abuse him, attacking him on the point of

his Christian faith, depreciating all sacred things, &c. He added finally, these words, "You dogs, be prepared, the time of your massacre is at hand."

These two facts have come under my immediate notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. MONTESANTO.

No. 570.

Note presented by Turkish Chargé d'Affaires on leaving St. Petersburgh.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 28.)

M. LE CHARGE d'AFFAIRES de Russie à Constantinople a annoncé à la Sublime Porte le $\frac{1}{13}$ de ce mois, qu'il a reçu de son Gouvernement l'ordre de rompre les relations diplomatiques et de quitter Constantinople avec le personnel de l'Ambassade et de retirer les Consuls établis dans différentes villes du territoire Ottoman.

Me conformant, de mon côté, aux instructions que je viens de recevoir, j'ai l'honneur d'exprimer le regret que la Sublime Porte éprouve en voyant le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie prendre l'initiative de la rupture de relations auxquelles la Sublime Porte s'était toujours appliquée à conserver le même caractère que par le passé au milieu des circonstances les plus difficiles.

Cette résolution du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie ayant pourtant été officiellement annoncée à la Sublime Porte, elle se trouve dans la nécessité de faire une démarche analogue auprès du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie en lui faisant connaître qu'elle vient de prescrire à son Chargé d'Affaires à St. Pétersbourg et à ses Consuls en Russie de quitter le territoire Russe. La Sublime Porte espère que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie voudra bien donner les ordres nécessaires aux autorités compétentes pour que le personnel Diplomatique et Consulaire Ottoman puisse trouver auprès d'elles les facilités d'usage en pareil cas.

No. 571.

Note presented by M. Nelidoff to Porte breaking off Relations.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 28.)

LE Cabinet Impérial de Russie a épuisé tous les moyens de conciliation pour rétablir une paix durable en Orient par une entente avec les Grandes Puissances et la Porte. La manière dont le Gouvernement Ottoman a rejeté toutes les propositions qui lui ont été successivement faites et le refus qu'il vient d'opposer au Protocole signé à Londres le 31 Mars, ainsi qu'à la déclaration dont cet acte était accompagné, ne laissent plus de place à des négociations ultérieures, ni d'espoir quant à une entente basée sur le bon vouloir de la Porte à offrir les garanties réclamées par l'Europe au nom de la paix générale.

L'Empereur mon auguste Maître m'a en conséquence prescrit de rompre les relations diplomatiques et de quitter Constantinople avec le personnel de l'Ambassade et les Consuls de Russie résidant en Turquie. En même temps, j'ai l'ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale de rendre la Porte attentive à la grave responsibilité qui pèserait sur elle si la sécurité non-seulement de nos nationaux, mais encore de tous les Chrétiens sujets du Sultan ou étrangers, était compromise sur quelque point que ce soit de l'Empire Ottoman.

No. 572.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 28.)

Constantinople, le 26 Avril, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

JE vous transmets ci-après le manifeste de la Sublime Porte, publié aujourd'hui dans les journaux de la capitale.

La Russie, en déclarant la guerre à l'Empire Ottoman, et en commençant les hostilités par l'invasion de nos provinces d'Asie et d'une Principauté qui fait partie intégrante des États du Sultan, vient de donner le plus douloureux démenti aux troubles et aux difficultés politiques qui agitent l'Orient depuis près de deux années.

L'Europe, qui, dans un intérêt d'humanité et pour assurer son propre repos, a

travaillé avec ardeur et persévérance à écarter cette redoutable éventualité, a sans doute le droit de rechercher les causes de l'insuccès de ses efforts et de décider sur lequel des deux Etats doit retomber la responsabilité de la guerre et des calamités qu'elle entraîne après elle.

Le Gouvernement du Sultan a, de son côté, le devoir, à cette heure solennelle, de remettre sous les yeux de ses peuples et des Puissances amies l'exposé fidèle de ses actes et des événements politiques qui ont amené la situation actuelle.

Dans le cours de l'année 1875, deux provinces de l'Empire, travaillées par des éléments révolutionnaires venus de hors, s'étaient mises en pleine révolte contre l'autorité légitime du Sultan, et le mal, sous l'influence pernicieuse des sociétés insurrectionnelles Panslavistes, menaçait de gagner d'autres provinces, et de porter la désolation et la ruine parmi les populations les plus paisibles de l'Empire. Par deux fois les Puissances amies ont essayé d'obtenir la pacification de ces provinces, en premier lieu au moyen de la médiation des Consuls, médiation qui n'eut d'autre effet que de constater le dédain des chefs de la conspiration Slave pour les vœux de l'Europe; en second lieu, au moyen d'un programme de réformes proposé par le Cabinet de Vienne, et qui, après avoir été accepté par la Sublime Porte, a été rejeté par l'insurrection.

Pour faire face à ces agressions, aussi bien que pour empêcher que le fléau de la guerre civile ne s'étendit à d'autres provinces, le Gouvernement Impérial a fait appel à toutes les forces militaires de la nation; et c'est grâce à ce grand et patriotique effort qu'il a pu vaincre la révolte, conserver l'intégrité de l'Empire, et épargner à l'Europe elle-même le contre-coup inévitable d'une perturbation générale en Orient.

La Turquie a donc rempli envers elle-même et envers l'Europe un véritable devoir en s'armant pour le rétablissement de l'ordre, pour la préservation du repos de l'Europe, et pour le maintien de la paix. Il en était un autre non moins impérieux qui s'imposait à la sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial, celui de réparer les fautes du passé, de doter le pays d'institutions libérales et de réorganiser les Administrations de l'Etat d'après les principes de la civilisation Européenne. Cette œuvre de régénération Gouvernementale et Administrative qui a pour base la Charte Constitutionnelle octroyée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, s'accomplit en ce moment par la volonté du Souverain et de ses Ministres, qui sont absolument dévoués à cette tâche, et secondés par les dispositions du pays, qui a accueilli avec bonheur et reconnaissance la réforme Constitutionnelle, et par les efforts et les travaux des deux Chambres qui constituent le Parlement Ottoman.

Cependant, l'Europe n'avait pas perdu l'espoir de mettre fin à un état de choses qu'elle jugeait non sans raison dangereux pour elle-même. Bien certaine de trouver le Gouvernement du Sultan disposé à la suivre de nouveau dans la voie de la conciliation, elle avait proposé de réunir à Constantinople une Conférence qui devait rechercher, de concert avec la Sublime Porte, et sur des bases convenues d'avance, des conditions définitives du rétablissement de la paix. Cette phase de la question Orientale est trop présente à l'esprit de tous pour qu'il soit nécessaire d'en reproduire les circonstances. Il doit suffire de rappeler que les Grandes Puissances, après avoir délibéré entre elles et en dehors de la Sublime Porte, ont été amenées à introduire dans le programme de la Conférence des éléments nouveaux en opposition avec les bases proposées par l'Angleterre et qui avaient déterminé l'adhésion du Gouvernement Impérial; que, nonobstant sa répugnance à laisser discuter des questions d'administration intérieure, ses délégués ont donné par déférence pour les vœux de l'Europe les assurances les plus satisfaisantes et les plus complètes, et l'on peut dire les démonstrations les plus concluantes en ce qui touche la réforme administrative; qu'enfin l'entente pouvait être considérée comme obtenue sur ce point, aussi bien que sur les conditions générales de la pacification des provinces vassales; et que, si la Conférence a été rompue sans avoir consacré aucun des résultats acquis, ce fut en raison du refus de la Sublime Porte d'adhérer aux deux stipulations dites de garantie que les Puissances ont voulu lui imposer. Or, s'il est une vérité éclatante et qui n'a jamais été contestée même par les ennemis de la Turquie, c'est que ces deux conditions constituaient une atteinte à l'indépendance de l'Empire Ottoman, aux principes les plus sacrés du droit international et une infraction formelle aux stipulations du Traité de 1856, qui interdit aux Puissances qui en sont les signataires toute immixtion dans l'administration intérieure de la Turquie. Il semble que, dans ces conditions, l'insuccès de la Conférence de Constantinople ne devait avoir d'autre conséquence que d'engager les Grandes Puissances à attendre avec confiance l'effet des engagements moraux que la Sublime Porte avait contractés envers elles, et les résultats du nouveau mode d'administration créé par la Constitution Ottomane.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, en effet, s'était mis à l'œuvre, non seulement en se consacrant à l'application des principes de son régime constitutionnel, mais encore en entrant spontanément en négociation avec la Serbie et le Monténégro pour rétablir la paix

entre ces deux Principautés et la Cour Suzeraine. Cette dernière partie de sa tâche était en voie d'accomplissement. La Serbie était pacifiée, et les dispositions bienveillantes que la Sublime Porte témoignait au Monténégro paraissaient devoir triompher des difficultés résultant des prétentions inadmissibles de cette Principauté. Le Gouvernement Impérial ne pouvait être arrêté dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche par la nécessité de se maintenir sur le pied de guerre et de supporter ainsi la charge accablante de la paix armée. Il songeait alors à désarmer; mais, avant de mettre à exécution cette résolution si impérieusement commandée par les circonstances, il était nécessaire que l'Europe n'y restât pas indifférente, et qu'elle apportât à la Turquie son concours bienveillant pour que la démobilisation de l'armée Ottomane ne fût pas un acte d'imprudence ou d'imprévoyante précipitation. C'est au moment où la Sublime Porte s'apprêtait à convier l'Europe à cette négociation pacifique que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg a cru devoir prendre l'initiative de nouvelles tentatives, non pas d'entente, mais de pression à exercer sur le Gouvernement Impérial. De cette campagne diplomatique tout à fait inattendue est sorti le Protocole de Londres, délibéré et signé sans que le Gouvernement Impérial ait été appelé à en discuter les dispositions, sans même qu'il ait été consulté. Les mêmes raisons qui avaient obligé la Sublime Porte à rejeter certains articles du projet de la Conférence de Constantinople lui faisaient un devoir de décliner les nouvelles résolutions de l'Europe, rendues moins admissibles encore par les déclarations particulières dont la Russie les avait fait précéder. Aucun Gouvernement soucieux de son honneur et de son indépendance n'aurait pu souscrire au programme qui lui était présenté.

Tout en reconnaissant que son refus, en présence d'un voisin puissant et prêt à appuyer ses prétentions par les armes, l'exposait à une agression, le Gouvernement du Sultan, soutenu par le sentiment unanime des représentants de la nation, n'a pas hésité à maintenir l'intégrité de sa souveraineté intérieure. Cette éventualité s'est malheureusement réalisée. La Russie, après avoir vainement essayé d'affaiblir et d'abaisser l'Empire Ottoman en lui infligeant la tutelle de l'étranger, poursuit aujourd'hui par les armes la satisfaction de sa politique ambitieuse. Elle trouvera sur sa route tout un peuple armé pour la défense de son territoire, pour la conservation de ses foyers, pour le maintien des droits de son Souverain, pour l'indépendance de sa patrie. Mais, au moment où va s'engager cette lutte inhumaine, et qu'elle qu'en puisse être l'issue, il faut que l'Europe, que le monde entier apprenne la vérité; il faut que toutes les populations de l'Empire, aujourd'hui ralliées autour du Trône du Sultan par le sentiment commun, connaissent la cause des souffrances qu'elles ont déjà endurées et des calamités nouvelles auxquelles leur pays va se trouver exposé; il faut, enfin, que, dans la victoire ou dans la défaite, l'Empire Ottoman soit déchargé de la responsabilité de la guerre actuelle. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement Impérial se croit en devoir d'affirmer que les populations Chrétiennes de l'Herzégovine, de la Bosnie, et des vilayets habités par des Bulgares ne s'étaient soulevées qu'à l'instigation des Comités Panslavistes, organisés et stipendiés par la Russie; que la Serbie et le Monténégro n'ont pris les armes contre la Cour Souveraine que sur l'intervention directe de la Russie; qu'ils n'ont pu soutenir la lutte que par le secours de la Russie; qu'enfin tous les maux qui ont affligé depuis deux ans cette partie de l'Empire sont dus à l'action ostensible ou occulte, mais toujours présente de la Russie.

Que maintenant l'Europe contemple les ruines que la politique Russe a déjà faites en Turquie; qu'elle examine et qu'elle juge avec impartialité les prétendus griefs qui lui servent de prétexte pour troubler la paix générale et pour plonger deux grands Etats dans les horreurs de la guerre, et que son verdict donne satisfaction à la conscience publique.

L'agresseur de la Turquie est aussi bien l'ennemi des populations Chrétiennes que des populations Musulmanes, car il leur a causé et leur prépare plus de maux qu'il n'a jamais pu leur promettre de bienfaits dans les trompeuses invitations à la guerre civile.

Il ose prétendre qu'il s'est armé pour protéger les Chrétiens, et cela au moment même où la Constitution la plus complète qu'un pays libre puisse ambitionner, proclame le principe de l'égalité entre tous les Ottomans, au moment où ce principe reçoit chaque jour une consécration telle qu'il serait désormais impossible à la Sublime Porte de faire un acte de politique intérieure bon ou mauvais qui ne profitât ou ne préjudiciât à tous ceux, Musulmans et non-Musulmans, qui vivent sous l'autorité du Sultan. Le Gouvernement Impérial a dit à la Russie comme aux autres Puissances de l'Europe: Regardez et jugez, et à cette parole loyale et sincère, la Russie a répondu par une déclaration de guerre, sans recourir, au préalable, à la médiation de l'Europe, comme l'Article VIII du Traité de Paris lui en faisait un obligation, sans laisser aux Puissances le temps et les moyens d'accomplir cette tâche pacifique au sujet de laquelle le Gouvernement Impérial déclare avoir rempli son devoir; enfin, la Russie, au mépris de toutes les règles observées en pareil cas par les Etats civilisés, a notifié sa déclaration de guerre au Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie à St. Pétersbourg en même temps qu'elle rompait ses relations avec la Sublime Porte par

l'organe de son propre Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople; mais, dans la nuit même qui a précédée la déclaration de guerre, elle avait envahi le territoire de l'Empire. L'histoire enregistera ce fait inouï, que dans ce siècle de lumière, de civilisation, et de justice une grande Puissance a porté dans l'Empire voisin le fer et le feu parceque cet Empire entendait qu'on respecte avec lui, comme il respectait envers les autres, les engagements internationaux, les règles éternelles du droit des gens, l'indépendance de son administration intérieure, et par dessus tout, l'honneur et la dignité de son peuple et de son Souverain. C'est pour défendre ces principes sacrés, pour repousser la plus odieuse et la plus criminelle des entreprises, que l'armée Ottomane va marcher à la rencontre de l'agresseur. La nation toute entière rangée autour de son auguste Souverain, confiante dans le triomphe de la plus juste des causes, résolue à faire tous les sacrifices, résignée à toutes les souffrances, est prête à combattre et à mourir pour son indépendance.

Que le Très-Haut protége le bon droit.

No. 573.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord, *Greek Legation, London, April 27, 1877.*

WITH reference to the letter which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 17th of February, in reply to your note of the 14th of that month, I now beg to inform your Lordship that, as I verbally intimated to Lord Tenterden on the 17th of March, His Majesty's Government had ordered a strict investigation to be made into the report of the Hellenic Vice-Consul at Cavalla which gave rise to my first communication on the Boulounstra outrages; and that M. Vatikiotis, His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, had been directed to send his secretary to that particular locality for the purpose of investigation.

M. Vatikiotis now reports, in a despatch which has been communicated to me, that previous to his secretary starting for Boulounstra, M. Bulgarides, Vice-Consul for France at Cavalla, arrived at Salonica; and, being questioned on the subject, informed M. Vatikiotis that he had investigated the incident by order both of the British and French Consuls at Salonica, and had arrived at the conclusion that, although there was no religious element in the disturbances, nevertheless there is every evidence of a preconcerted attack on the part of the Turks of the neighbouring villages on the Christian inhabitants of Boulounstra, with the set purpose of pillage—a design fully carried out and followed by murders. M. Bulgarides added that the assailants have neither been detected nor arrested as yet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

No. 574.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 319. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, April 27, 1877.*

I MENTIONED in my despatch No. 315 of yesterday that the Duc Decazes, in a conversation which I had with him about Egypt, had suggested that it would be desirable that the British and French Governments should concert measures respecting the employment of their respective ships of war in the Mediterranean, and that the two navies should act as much as possible together.

In connection with this subject, the Duke spoke of apprehensions which he felt that Italy might take advantage of any favourable conjuncture of circumstances to seize upon Tunis.

Your Lordship may remember that, in my Very Confidential despatch No. 26 of the 12th January last, I reported that the Duke had told me that he had received from the Italian Government a disavowal of the designs against Tunis attributed to them.

This disavowal did not seem to have altogether removed the Duke's uneasiness at the time, and the present critical state of affairs has revived it in full force. "Rome," he says, "a toujours rêvé Carthage."

The Duc Decazes does not speak of the suspicions of Italian aspirations for the recovery of Nice, and even of Savoy, which are common among the French public, but all his colleagues in the Cabinet are not so prudent.

Your Lordship will no doubt have been struck by the information as to the suspicions of an alliance between Italy and Germany felt in the French army, which is contained in the despatch from Major-General Conolly of the 20th instant, which was inclosed in my despatch No. 294 of the same date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 575.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Odessa, April 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
M. NELIDOFF having stated that, contrary to what has appeared in English press, when he left Constantinople your Lordship had made no representations as to bombardment of Odessa, British community request me to ask if I may contradict that statement.

No. 576.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Galatz, April 27, 1877, 4·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
NO shot fired here on either side. About 12,000 Russian troops passed. Three Turkish ironclads gone up. Telegraphic exchange with Constantinople interrupted. No gunboat here. I am informed that one will come when relieved at Constantinople.

No. 577.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Galatz, April 27, 1877, 5·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
RUSSIAN Commander-in-chief declares navigation of the Danube closed. Reasonable time given for ships now in river to clear out.

No. 578.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING is from the Military Secretary at Roustchouk:—

"A gentleman arrived from Bucharest says Russian(s) have arrived at the first railway station (out) of Bucharest, and published proclamation that they will enter Bucharest, and are not to come to Giurgevo.

"The Turks have not crossed Danube here or, I hear, anywhere else."

No. 579.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Vienna, April 27, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram, communicated to me to-day, the Porte ought to know that the export of horses from Austria-Hungary was some time ago prohibited with a view to the possible requirements of the Government.

No foreign purchasers therefore attended the recent fairs. The Turkish Ambassador may, perhaps, be able to show that those referred to were purchased before the prohibition.

No. 580.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Vienna, April 27, 1877, 10·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FROM Monson, dated to-day:—

"Prince Nicholas has received intelligence that the Turks yesterday killed and decapitated a Kutchi shepherd and carried his head to Podgoritza.

"His Highness telegraphs to Ali Saib Pasha that if such barbarities are repeated, he will hang every Turkish officer above the rank of Captain who falls into his hands."

No. 581.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 11·40 A.M.)

Tehran, April 28, 1877, 1·45 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Mission Agent at Messed reports following:—

"I have learned from reliable authority that the Ruler of Afghan has dispatched a person named Attaula, son of Hajee Iskairula, on a mission to the Russians."

Communicated to India.

No. 582.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Cairo, April 28, 1877, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I SEE that a question is to be asked on Monday as to attitude of Egypt in the Eastern question.

My despatches may not arrive in time, and your Lordship will desire to know exactly how the case stands.

In obedience to the summons of the Porte, Egypt has promised to despatch all the assistance she properly can to Turkey, and the Viceroy will send his son, Prince Hassan, in command of Egyptian contingent.

But Egypt intends to respect and fulfil her financial engagements towards Europe. She will touch no moneys pledged to her creditors, and the measure of her assistance will depend upon the extraordinary resources she can raise in the shape of voluntary subscriptions or loans, which will be decided by the Chamber of Delegates.

I have carefully avoided offering any advice or opinion on the subject.

My French colleague has strongly protested against despatch of any assistance; but this has not influenced the decision of the Egyptian Government, which has been taken spontaneously.

No. 583.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 1·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
TURKISH Ambassador has communicated telegram from Porte asking Her Majesty's Government to undertake protection of Turkish subjects in Russia.

I have consented, though I told Musurus Pasha that it might have been better, under the circumstances, to ask some other Government.

No. 584.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
AT request of Turkish Government, Her Majesty's Government have undertaken the protection of Turkish subjects in Russia.

Inform Russian Government, and instruct Consuls to give their good offices accordingly, as occasion may require.

No. 585.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 1·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
TELEGRAPH at once all regulations issued respecting blockade and closing ports.
Very important that timely notice should be given to British shipping.

No. 586.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 2·15 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 12·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Turkish Government having refused to allow Germany to accept protection of Russian subjects and interests, on ground that they cannot admit application of the Capitulations to them under the exceptional circumstances of the war, the German Government have, I have been informed, directed the German Chargé d'Affaires to protest against this decision, and if Porte refuses to give way, to refer to Berlin for further instructions. I have strongly advised Minister for Foreign Affairs not to insist upon this refusal, as I am assured that no danger or serious difficulties need be apprehended from giving way, and the Turkish Government can always reserve to themselves the right of dealing with subjects of the enemy found within their territories, in case of necessity.

No. 587.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 3·45 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
TURKISH Government are about to issue orders forbidding all ships passing through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus after dark.
The lights on Bosphorus will be extinguished except those at the Black Sea entrance, which the Turkish Government will maintain as long as they consider that they can safely do so.

No. 588.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 3·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1877, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)
I AM informed by person present at the Chambers when Government announced to them declaration of war, that the enthusiasm in favour of resisting the Russians to utmost was very great, and especially amongst the Christian Deputies, who were thanked warmly by the Mussulman Deputies for their patriotic declarations. The son of Schamyl, the celebrated Circassian Chief, is to take the command of the Circassians in Asia; the son of the well-known Beder Khan Bey is to form a corps of Kurds; and it is stated that the Christians are about to propose to the Porte to raise Christian regiments.

No. 589.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 2 P.M.

Telegraphic.)
AS Hobart Pasha is now absent, I have been unable to communicate to him the contents of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, but I will do so immediately on his return to Constantinople.

* Identic telegram to Mr. Layard.

No. 590.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 4·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of the 27th, telegraph regulations issued as to closing Danube. If you have not got them, state how long will be allowed for vessels to leave the river.

No. 591.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of this day, try and communicate with Hobart Pasha at once, as the statement respecting him has been already made in Parliament.

No. 592.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 5·30 P.M.)

Vienna, April 28, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
SIMILAR information to that received by your Lordship from Mr. Vivian as to warning given to the Khedive against affording assistance to the Porte has been reported by the Austro-Hungarian Agent.

No. 593.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 6 P.M.)

Vienna, April 28, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
INFORMATION from Constantinople has been received to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, that as it appears that Russia does not propose to send forces into Servia, the Porte has no longer any reason for doing so.
The Austrian Government intimated, I understand, to both parties that they would have serious objections to war being brought so near their frontiers.

No. 594.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegrams of 25th referred to Law Officers.
Proposed regulations are within the rights of the Porte.
Suggest to Turkish Government that immediate and proper measures should be taken for the protection and safety of all neutral vessels navigating in waters, and entering or leaving ports and roadsteads where torpedoes have been laid; secondly, that due notice of blockades should be given, and a proper warning given to vessels on their way to blockaded ports, and due time allowed to vessels within and wishing to leave blockaded ports.

No. 595.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
"ANTELOPE" leaves Malta to-day for Constantinople. "Helicon" will follow on 8th of May.

No. 596.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Tiflis, April 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

AUTHORITIES refuse to forward my telegrams to Constantinople; telegrams 24th and 27th instant were sent to London. Please acknowledge receipt.

Four battalions of the 35th division arrived yesterday from Russia, two of which are gone to Akhalzyk; four more of the same division expected late Thursday. 500 Cossacks gone to Alexandropol to-day.

No. 597.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Galatz, April 28, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

VERBAL notice received this morning that all vessels must leave by six this evening. Four small Russian ironclads came by rail yesterday. Two launched this morning.

No. 598.

The Earl of Derby to the Lord President of the Council.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a draft of a Proclamation prepared by the Law Officers of the Crown, declaring the neutrality of Her Majesty in the present state of war between Russia and Turkey; and I have to request that your Lordship will submit the same to Her Majesty at the next Privy Council, which will be held on Monday.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 599.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 46.)

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will inform me what foundation there is for a statement contained in a telegram received through Reuter's Agency to the effect that the Sultan has dispatched an Envoy to the Ameer of Cabul.

Should this information be correct, you will endeavour to ascertain the general purpose of the Agent's mission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 600.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

(No. 44.)

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to request that you will be careful to telegraph to me with as little delay as possible all regulations which may be issued respecting the blockade and closing of ports.

It is most important that Her Majesty's Goverment should be in a position to give timely notice thereof to the British shipping interests.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY

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* An identic despatch was addressed to Lord A. Loftus.

No. 601.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Tiflis, April 28, 1877, 7·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YESTERDAY Russians with one division attacked Turkish position near Ozurget, but gained no advantage. Russians had, it is said, between 200 and 300 wounded. Some troops arrived from Russia leave for Alexandropol.

No. 602.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Government propose to issue a declaration to the effect that the establishments of the Mixed Commission on the Danube shall be respected and protected, but that they cannot bind themselves as to the free navigation of the river.

No. 603.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, April 28, 1877, 9 P.M.

I AM informed that Prince Gortchakow has made a request through the French Ambassador here to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs not to answer his last Circular.

I have been informed that orders are given to have seven iron-clads at Cronstadt, mentioned in my despatch No. 202, ready for sea on the 17th of May. They are to be joined by the Russian squadron now in American waters, and will proceed to the Mediterranean under the command of the Grand Duke Constantine.

No. 604.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Russia will give assurances to Austria that she will not enter Servia if Turkey will do the same. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has proposed to Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to state this to him in a note to which he would reply, giving the assurances required. Turkish Government would have occupied Khadova only in order to prevent Russian troops crossing to Turno-Severin, and will not enter Servia except in case of a rising in that province.

No. 605.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 27th instant, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that a Declaration with reference to blockade of the Black Sea and rights of neutrals will be immediately published; and he strongly advises that vessels should not attempt to proceed to Galatz, which is now the seat of war, or to Nicholaieff, or other ports.

No. 606.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just received following notice from the Porte:—

First, the Dardanelles and Bosphorus are closed both for entrance and exit to all steamers and sailing ships without exception during the night, that is, from sunset to sunrise.

Secondly, the lighthouses in these Straits (with the exception of the two great lighthouses at the entrance to the Bosphorus in the Black Sea and the two lighthouses of Sedal Bahr and Koura Kaleh in the Dardanelles) will be extinguished; the four above-mentioned lights may also be extinguished by the orders of the military commanders.

Thirdly, the firing of guns, cannon, in foggy weather, as an alarm signal, is absolutely forbidden.

No. 607.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 101. Political. Confidential.)

Cairo, April 21, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Agent here is in hourly expectation of being recalled, and meanwhile is doing what he can to inform himself of the intentions of the Khedive about sending assistance to Turkey, and of the advice which the Representatives of the Great Powers will probably give to His Highness upon this point.

He is apparently not quite satisfied with the language of the Khedive and some of his Turkish advisers; but he is reassured by the generally expressed opinion of my principal colleagues, namely, that nothing should prevent the Khedive from fulfilling the financial engagements he has contracted towards his European creditors; for if His Highness follows this advice, there would be little left wherewith to meet any large demands either for men or money from the Porte.

I cannot help suspecting that while Russia would not attempt to interfere with any moderate reinforcements that Egypt might have to send out to satisfy the Porte, she might endeavour to prevent by force, or perhaps even, punish by reprisals, any really important assistance in men or money.

The Khedive has, I know, said more than once that, war or no war, the coupons of his foreign debt will be paid, and his engagements punctually met; but this seems inconsistent with an opinion that he has also expressed that, as a Mussulman Prince, he is bound to do his utmost to assist the Porte in a foreign war. It is out of the question that he can do both, or run with the hare and hunt with the hounds; and he must cast in his lot either with Europe or with the Porte. He is really impressed with the gravity of the situation and the difficulty of his position, and I never saw him so depressed.

With regard to his military engagements towards the Porte, I can only find that by the Firman to Mehemet Ali in 1841, the number of Egyptian troops in time of peace was fixed at 18,000 men (which by the Firman granted to the present Viceroy in 1866 was increased to 30,000), but in time of war the Firman of 1841 says:—

"Vu que les troupes de terre et de mer de l'Egypte sont instituées pour le service de ma Sublime Porte, il sera permis en temps de guerre de les porter au nombre qui aura été jugé convenable par ma Sublime Porte."

I am not aware that this stipulation, which makes the Porte the judge of the military assistance she can call upon Egypt to furnish in time of war, has been modified by any subsequent Firman; and it might justify very extravagant demands.

Your Lordship will forgive me for recurring to what I conceive to be the important question of the attitude of the Khedive in a war between Russia and Turkey. I say important, not so much on account of the value of any assistance that Egypt could render to Turkey, except in money, as in view of the possibility of its embroiling her with Russia, and, perhaps, even with France, whose Government attach the greatest importance to the Khedive's observance of his financial engagements, and of its thus leading to further political complications.

I have just heard from our Vice-Consul at Damietta that the Prefect has received orders to recall all soldiers absent on furlough belonging to the regiments quartered in the district; and I also learn from other sources that Prince Hassan will shortly leave for

Constantinople with 10,000 men, which will bring the strength of the Egyptian contingent in Turkey up to about 19,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 608.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Cairo, April 29, 1877, 10 A.M.

EGYPTIAN Government are most anxious to know the views of Her Majesty's Government as to allowing Russian men-of-war to pass through the Suez Canal.

Question will probably soon arise, and the Government seem to fear consequences of attempting to enforce the order that will probably come from the Porte to stop their passage.

No. 609.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Galatz, April 29, 1877.

NO regulations issued. All ships to leave yesterday. Galatz clear.

No. 610.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, April 29, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

GOVERNMENT of Roumania signed a Convention with Russia thirteen days ago. I send details of duplicity of Roumanian Government in my despatch.

No. 611.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, April 29, 1877, 3·18 P.M.

OFFICIAL Gazette of last night proclaims neutrality of Italy in war between Russia and Turkey, and warns Italian citizens of penalties attaching to violation of same.

No. 612.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 29, 1877, 6 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Erzeroom, dated yesterday:—

"Turks retiring from Bayazid to Delibaba. Much grain seized by Russians in Shoragan. Russians entered Ardahan. Russian force large—reported to have 400 mortars and three very large Krupp siege-guns."

No. 613.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, April 29, 1877, 7 P.M.

FOLLOWING just received Consul Green:—

"News has just reached this that the Italian despatch-boat 'Antion' is at Durazzo.

"No other Italian men-of-war have visited this coast since September.

"Fourteen men of war are now collected at Taranto, and a corps of 30,000 men is also said to be in that vicinity; but the Italian Consul strenuously denies the public rumour here that the Italians intend to occupy this country."

No. 614.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29, at night.)

Tiflis, April 29, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

CORRESPONDENT of Ageney Havas named Nichola gone to Turkish head-quarters in Asia Minor. He is Russian spy. Please communicate to Constantinople. Grand Duke is at Tiflis awaiting I think reinforcements. Despatch No. 58 sent.

No. 615.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1877, 9·30 P.M.

I AM informed by one of my colleagues that Prince Gortchakow, in talking lately of Persia, expressed no wish for Persian co-operation in the war, observing that Persian troops would be rather an embarrassment and an expense than of any utility, and would probably bring the plague with them.

No. 616.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Canea, Crete, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

THE great gathering of Cretan Christians which I had the honour of announcing to your Lordship as about to come off on the 10th instant did not take place at all. It would appear that when the chiefs were advised of the dispatch of troops to Omalo they countermanded the meeting, which it is said has been put off, not finally given up. I believe the intended meeting to have had a political object, viz., that of drawing up a memorial reiterating their demand for those modifications in the Organic Law which they failed to obtain last year; but there are so many versions of the object of the meeting that it is hardly possible to arrive at any certain knowledge on the subject.

The late rumours of the probability of war with Russia have created a notable increase of excitement here. The Mussulmans are enthusiastic at the prospect, and boast that the Sultan has 700,000 men concentrated on the frontiers, who, they go so far as to declare, will eventually dictate terms of peace at St. Petersburgh. It is remarkable that even the most intelligent Mussulmans are fully persuaded of the triumph of their arms. The Christians, on their part, are quite as eager for the outbreak of war, believing that the result cannot but be adverse to the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 617.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 172.)

St. Petersburgh, April 13, 1877.

My Lord.

M. DE GIERS informed me to-day that the answer of the Turkish Government to the Protocol of London and its annexes was communicated to the Imperial Government yesterday by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires. His Excellency stated that it was a lengthy document, very ably written; but in a tone that rejected all the proposals of Europe, and closed the door to any further negotiations.

From what I hear the Emperor has fully made up his mind that it is hopeless to expect any concessions on the part of the Porte, and that nothing now remains for Russia

but to resort to measures of coercion. It is presumed, however, that no decisive measure will be taken until reference has been made to the European Powers, although nothing has yet been apparently decided as to the course which the Imperial Government will take.

In the official circles war is considered to be inevitable, although it is generally deplored. In the Court circles faint hopes seem to be entertained that at the last moment, some happy expedient may be discovered to obviate the necessity of an appeal to arms, at which, I believe, no one would more rejoice than the Emperor himself; but I am bound to say that these hopes rest more on the wishes of those who entertain them than on the probability of their realization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 618.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 173 A.)

St. Petersburgh, April 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM informed that the Emperor of Russia, accompanied by the Cesarewitch, will leave this capital on Thursday evening for Kicheneff to inspect the army of operations.

I venture to inquire whether, in the event of war, Her Majesty's Government would permit Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, to accompany the Russian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 619.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 176.)

St. Petersburgh, April 15, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Emperor of Russia has invited the Austrian and German Military Agents to accompany him to Kicheneff to review the army of operations. Colonel Gaillard, the French Military Attaché was invited by the Grand Duke Nicholas to accompany him as a private friend when he took the command of the army at Kicheneff some months ago, and he has since then remained as His Imperial Highness' guest. No invitation has been addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to accompany the Emperor on this occasion, and consequently he is the only Military Attaché to the foreign Embassies who has been omitted.

I have thought it my duty to report this omission to your Lordship as it may be commented upon by the press.

If the omission is accidental it might perhaps be rectified through Count Schouvaloff, if your Lordship deemed it advisable to do so.

I may observe to your Lordship that General Werder, the German Military Agent, has the rank and title of Military Plenipotentiary; that he is specially attached to the person of the Emperor, accompanying His Majesty on all occasions, and is considered as forming part of His Majesty's personal staff.

Baron Bechtolsheim, the Austrian Military Agent, is a Colonel in the army and Aide-de-Camp of the Emperor Francis Joseph.

He has the rank and title of "Agent Militaire."

Colonel Gaillard, the French Military Attaché has the same rank and title as Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley.

I am not aware that any distinction is made in the attention shown to the Military Attachés to the several foreign Embassies in London, and it is on this account that I have thought it my duty to report to your Lordship the incident in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 620.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 178.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE the communication to the Porte of the Protocol and its annexes, the general feeling here has been that a rupture of the relations with Turkey is inevitable, nor does the official language give any hope of avoiding it.

It is reported that the issue of a manifesto by the Emperor is imminent, and that it will appear on the day on which the Emperor will review the army of operations at Kicheneff.

I am told that a large amount of gold has been sent within the last few days to the army, which is a proof that an early advance of the army across the frontier is intended.

The Emperor will leave on Thursday evening for Kicheneff. His Majesty will go by Brest Litowski, and it is reported that he will return here in the first week of May. His Majesty will be accompanied by the Cesarewitch.

General Ignatiew will be in attendance on His Majesty. Prince Gortchakow will remain here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 621.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 181.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 17, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE addressing to your Lordship my despatch No. 176 of the 15th instant, I have learnt indirectly that the Russian Government do not intend to grant permission to the Military Agents or Attachés to the foreign Embassies here to accompany the Russian army of operations.

I am informed that an application was made to Prince Bismarck (and not to the Imperial Government as stated in my telegram of this date) by General Werder for permission to Major Legnitz, his aide-de-camp and assistant, to accompany the Russian army, but that Prince Bismarck refused this permission.

It appears that in taking the decision about the Military Attachés the Russian Government were somewhat embarrassed by the presence of the French Military Attaché at the headquarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas, but I am informed that as he has been there for some months he will be regarded as in an exceptional position, and will consequently not be recalled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 622.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 190 A.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 23, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 190 of this day's date I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith the official report published this afternoon of the Emperor of Russia's speech to the army at Tiraspol on his way to Kicheneff.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 622.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of April $\frac{11}{23}$, 1877.

Bulletin Extraordinaire.

LE "Messager Officiel" a publié ce matin les dépêches suivantes :—

"*Imérinka, Dimanche,* 10 *Avril.*

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur, accompagné de son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Césarévitch, Grand-Duc Héritier, est arrivé heureusement aujourd'hui à 9 heures du matin

à la station de Imérinka du Chemin de Fer Kiew-Brest. Sa Majesté est repartie à 10 heures et demie pour Birzoula, après avoir passé en revue les troupes.

"*Birzoula, Dimanche* 10 *Avril.*

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Monseigneur le Césarévitch, Grand-Duc Héritier, sont arrivés à la station de Birzoula du Chemin de Fer d'Odessa et sont partis pour Tiraspol à 6 heures du soir, après avoir passé une revue."

En outre, la feuille officielle vient de distribuer la dépêche suivante :—

"*Tiraspol, Lundi* 11 *Avril.*

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur a passé hier deux revues des troupes du 9e corps. A 9 heures du matin, à Imérinka, l'Empereur a inspecté la 5e division d'infanterie avec son artillerie et ses équipages.

"Après la revue Sa Majesté a réuni autour d'elle les officiers de la division et a formulé de bons souhaits en vue de la prochaine campagne, et à l'occasion du jour de naissance de son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Grand-Duc Vladimir Alexandrovitch, Chef du 17e régiment d'infanterie d'Arkhangel; l'Empereur a exprimé la conviction que ce régiment sera à la hauteur de son ancienne gloire militaire.

"A 5 heures et demie, à la station de Birzoula, la 31e division d'infanterie et la 11e division de cavalerie ont été présentées à Sa Majesté l'Empereur avec leur artillerie et leurs équipages.

"Après la revue, l'Empereur a adressé aux officiers les paroles suivantes :—

"'Avant votre entrée en campagne je veux vous exprimer mes vœux. Si vous devez combattre l'ennemi, conduisez-vous en vaillants soldats et soutenez la vieille gloire de vos régiments. Il y a parmi vous de jeunes troupes qui n'ont pas encore vu le feu, mais j'espère qu'elle ne resteront pas en arrière des corps plus anciens et qu'elles s'efforceront de les égaler en se distinguant sur le champ de bataille. Je vous souhaite de revenir bientôt et avec gloire. Au revoir, messieurs!'

"Puis s'adressant aux troupes Sa Majesté a dit: 'Au revoir, mes enfants.'

"Les troupes ont répondu par de longs et retentissants hourras. Aux officiers de la 11e division de cavalerie, l'Empereur a exprimé l'espoir que les régiments de cette division seront aussi brillants à la guerre que lorsqu'il les passait en revue en temps de paix. Partout l'enthousiasme des troupes et des populations est indescriptible.

"L'Empereur passera la nuit à Tiraspol, où une revue aura lieu dans la matinée. Sa Majesté se rendra ensuite à Ungheni, où une revue aura lieu, et sera de retour à minuit à Kischeneff.

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur est accompagné de leurs Altesses Impériales le Césarévitch Grand-Duc Héritier, le Grand-Duc Nicolas Nicolaïévitch fils, le Prince Serge Maximilianovitch Romanovsky, Duc de Leuchtenberg, ainsi que par les Ministres de la Cour, de la Guerre, et des Voies de Communication, le Chef des Gendarmes, et l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople, Général Ignatiew. L'auguste Général-en-chef de l'armée, et le Général Népokoïtchitsky se sont rendus à Tiraspol à la rencontre de Sa Majesté.

No. 623.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 192.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 24, 1877.

I HAD an interview yesterday with Prince Gortchakow, with a view to ascertain, in conformity with the inquiry of your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant, whether any course could be suggested acceptable to Russia which might avert war.

I communicated to his Highness those portions of Mr. Layard's telegram of the 21st instant, reporting the substance of his first interview with the Grand Vizier which referred to the possibility of an European mediation and the effect which his language had apparently produced on the mind of his Highness.

I further informed Prince Gortchakow of the substance of the reply which your Lordship had made to Mr. Layard, stating that although Her Majesty's Government feared that it was too late for diplomatic action, still they would be ready to reply favourably to an appeal from the Porte to mediate if the other Powers would join, and if Russia would likewise accept the mediation.

Prince Gortchakow at once stated that it was too late for any mediation, as the Russian troops were, if not already in movement, on the eve of marching.

With regard to an appeal to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Peace of 1856, Prince Gortchakow observed that it had been already exhausted by the Protocol of London,

in which the combined efforts of Europe for peace were recorded, and which had been haughtily rejected by the Porte. He considered the Turkish Circular in answer to the Protocol as a rebuff to Europe and as a declaration of war.

With regard to the proposal of sending an Ambassador to Kisheneff to meet the Emperor, Prince Gortchakow said that it would be of no utility, as the Porte was unable to make any suitable offer after the attitude of the Chamber in regard to the Protocol, and the course which the Porte had taken in conformity with it.

In short, said his Highness, the moment for action has arrived, the term for subterfuge and phraseology has passed away.

In further pressing his Highness as to whether there were any means which would be acceptable to Russia for the avoiding of war, Prince Gortchakow stated that nothing was now possible, as the affairs were in the hands of the military authorities.

I gathered from his Highness the conviction that nothing short of a complete submission on the part of the Porte could avert or suspend hostilities, which in the present temper of the Turkish Government and of the population was not to be expected.

It is generally believed here, and even in the official circles, that the Porte is not in a position, from want of funds, to disband its army, without danger to the peace and maintenance of order in the country.

If the troops, and more especially the irregular troops, were disbanded without receiving their arrears of pay, it would be difficult to disarm them, and disbanded troops, under such circumstances, might indulge in excesses which might produce anarchy and confusion, the effects of which would be more severely felt by the country than even war itself.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a copy of the telegram published in the "Agence Russe" of this morning (evidently from an official source), which is completely in the sense of the observations made to me yesterday by Prince Gortchakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 623.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of April 24, 1877.

St. Pétersbourg, Lundi soir, le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Avril*, 1877.

VOICI le télégramme que nous avons communiqué aujourd'hui à nos abonnés de la ville:—

"Les nouvelles télégraphiques parlant de tentatives pacifiques suprêmes de la part de la Porte par l'envoi d'une mission Turque à Kicheneff dépassent la vérité. Des efforts sont faits dans ce sens à Constantinople. Mais, par suite du vote des Chambres, les Turcs n'ont rien à offrir de sérieux.

"De simples courtoisies ne suffisent plus dans la situation actuelle. La Russie ne saurait se prêter à une troisième comédie, consistant à faire croire à des dispositions pacifiques à Constantinople et à rejeter sur elle la responsabilité de la guerre. Les bruits de prétendus offres de cession de Batoum, dont parlent les journaux, révèlent également l'intention de gagner du temps et de brouiller la Russie avec l'Angleterre, en la représentant comme visant à des acquisitions territoriales qu'elle ne demande pas, tandis que ce qu'elle demande avec instance au point de vouloir l'obtenir les armes à la main, des garanties sérieuses pour les Chrétiens, on continue à le lui refuser."

No. 624.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 194.) *St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copies of an Imperial Manifesto, and of a Circular despatch from Prince Gortchakow to the Russian Representatives at the Great Courts, which were published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this morning.

Having reason to believe that copies of the Circular and Manifesto will be communicated to your Lordship to-day by Count Schouvaloff, I have not thought it necessary to telegraph their substance in detail to your Lordship.

The Manifesto, after expressing the solicitude of the Emperor for the amelioration of the condition of the Christian population in Turkey, and after referring to the efforts which he had made in concert with Europe to effect it, states that he is forced, by the haughty obstinacy of the Porte, to have recourse to more decisive measures.

His Majesty, in referring to the declaration previously made of acting independently, if necessary, considers that the moment has now arrived for that action, and consequently orders the army to cross the Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 624.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of April $\frac{13}{25}$, 1877.

St. Pétersbourg, le 11 *Avril*, 1877.

MANIFESTE DE SA MAJESTÉ L'EMPEREUR.

PAR la grâce de Dieu, nous Alexandre II, Empereur et Autocrate de toutes les Russies, &c.

Savoir faisons:

NOS fidèles et amés sujets connaissent le vif intérêt que nous avons constamment voué aux destinées de la population Chrétienne opprimée de la Turquie. Notre désir d'améliorer et de garantir son sort a été partagé par la nation Russe tout entière, qui se montre aujourd'hui prête à porter de nouveaux sacrifices pour alléger la position des Chrétiens dans la presqu'île des Balkans.

Le sang et les biens de nos fidèles sujets nous ont toujours été chers. Tout notre règne atteste notre constante sollicitude pour conserver à la Russie les bienfaits de la paix. Cette sollicitude n'a pas cessé de nous animer lors des tristes événements qui se sont accomplis en Herzégovine, en Bosnie et en Bulgarie. Nous nous sommes avant tout tracé pour but d'arriver à l'amélioration de l'existence des Chrétiens d'Orient par la voie de négociations pacifiques et d'un concert avec les grandes Puissances Européennes, nos alliées et nos amies.

Nous avons fait pendant deux ans des efforts incessants pour amener la Porte à des réformes qui pussent préserver les Chrétiens de Bosnie, d'Herzégovine et de Bulgarie, de l'arbitraire des autorités locales. L'accomplissement de ces réformes découlait, d'une façon absolue, des engagements antérieurs, solennellement contractés par la Porte vis-à-vis de toute l'Europe. Nos efforts, appuyés par les instances diplomatiques que les autres Gouvernements ont faites en commun, n'ont cependant pas atteint le but désiré. La Porte est restée inébranlable dans son refus catégorique de toute garantie effective pour la sécurité de ses sujets Chrétiens et elle a repoussé les conclusions de la Conférence de Constantinople. Désirant tenter tous les moyens possibles de conciliation, afin de persuader la Porte, nous avons proposé aux autres Cabinets de rédiger un Protocole spécial, comprenant les conditions les plus essentielles de la Conférence de Constantinople, et d'inviter le Gouvernement Turc à s'associer à cet acte international qui trace les limites extrêmes de nos réclamations pacifiques. Mais notre attente ne s'est pas réalisée. La Porte n'a pas déféré à ce vœu unanime de l'Europe Chrétienne et ne s'est pas associée aux conclusions du Protocole.

Ayant épuisé nos efforts pacifiques, nous sommes obligés, par l'obstination hautaine de la Porte, de procéder à des actes plus décisifs. Le sentiment de l'équité et celui de notre propre dignité nous le commandent. Par son refus, la Turquie nous met dans la nécessité de recourir à la force des armes. Profondément convaincus de la justice de notre cause, et nous confiant avec humilité à la grâce et à l'assistance du Très-Haut, nous faisons savoir à nos fidèles sujets que le moment prévu par nous lorsque nous prononçâmes les paroles auxquelles la Russie entière a répondu avec tant d'unanimité, est actuellement venu. Nous avions exprimé l'intention d'agir indépendamment lorsque nous le jugerions nécessaire et que l'honneur de la Russie l'exigerait. Aujourd'hui, en appelant la bénédiction de Dieu sur nos vaillantes armées, nous leur donnons l'ordre de franchir la frontière de la Turquie.

Donné à Kischeneff le 12e jour du mois d'Avril de l'an de grâce 1877, de notre règne le vingt-troisième.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

Circulaire aux Ambassadeurs de Russie à Berlin, Vienne, Paris, Londres et Rome.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Avril*, 1877.

Le Cabinet Impérial a épuisé, depuis l'origine de la crise Orientale, tous les moyens en son pouvoir afin d'amener, avec le concours des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe, une pacification durable de la Turquie.

Toutes les propositions successivement faites à la Porte à la suite de l'entente établie entre les Cabinets ont rencontré de sa part une résistance invincible.

Le Protocole signé à Londres le $\frac{12}{31}$ Mars de cette année a été la dernière expression de la volonté collective de l'Europe.

Le Cabinet Impérial l'avait suggéré comme une tentative suprême de conciliation. Il avait fait connaître, par la déclaration portant la même date et accompagnant le Protocole, les conditions qui, loyalement et sincèrement acceptées et exécutées par le Gouvernement Ottoman, pouvaient amener le rétablissement et la consolidation de la paix.

La Porte vient d'y répondre par un nouveau refus.

Cette éventualité n'avait pas été envisagée par le Protocole de Londres. En formulant les vœux et les décisions de l'Europe, il s'était borné à stipuler que dans le cas où les Grandes Puissances seraient déçues dans leur espoir de voir la Porte appliquer avec énergie les mesures destinées à apporter à la condition des populations Chrétiennes l'amélioration unanimement réclamée comme indispensable à la tranquillité de l'Europe, elles se réservaient d'aviser en commun aux moyens qu'elles jugeraient les plus propres à assurer le bien-être de ces populations et les intérêts de la paix générale.

Ainsi les Cabinets avaient prévu le cas où la Porte ne remplirait pas les promesses qu'elle aurait faites, mais non celui où elle rejetterait les demandes de l'Europe.

En même temps la déclaration faite par Lord Derby à la suite du Protocole a constaté que, comme le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'avait consenti à la signature de cet acte qu'en vue des intérêts de la paix générale, il devait être entendu d'avance que, dans le cas où le but proposé ne serait pas atteint, et notamment le désarmement réciproque et la paix entre la Russie et la Turquie, le Protocole serait considéré comme nul et sans valeur.

Le refus de la Porte et les motifs sur lesquels il est fondé ne laissent subsister aucun espoir d'une déférence de sa part aux vœux et aux conseils de l'Europe, ni aucune garantie de l'application des réformes suggérées pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes; ils rendent impossible la paix avec le Monténégro et l'exécution des conditions qui pouvaient amener le désarmement et la pacification. Dans ces conjonctures, toute chance est fermée aux tentatives de conciliation. Il ne reste pas d'autre alternative que de laisser se prolonger l'état de choses que les Puissances ont déclaré incompatible avec leurs intérêts et ceux de l'Europe en général ou bien de chercher à obtenir par la coercition ce que les efforts unanimes des Cabinets n'ont pas réussi à obtenir de la Porte par la persuasion.

Notre auguste Maître a résolu d'entreprendre cette œuvre, que Sa Majesté avait convié les Grandes Puissances à poursuivre en commun avec elle.

Elle a donné à ses armées l'ordre de franchir les frontières de la Turquie.

Veuillez porter cette résolution à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

En assumant cette tâche, notre auguste Maître remplit un devoir qui lui est imposé par les intérêts de la Russie, dont le développement pacifique est entravé par les troubles permanents de l'Orient. Sa Majesté Impériale a la conviction de répondre en même temps aux sentiments et aux intérêts de l'Europe.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHACOW.

No. 625.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877.*

I AM privately informed that the Russian railway battalion entered Jassy yesterday, and that the departments of police, telegraphs, and Post-office in that town are in Russian hands.

This occupation thus took place before the publication of the Imperial Manifesto, but apparently on the same day as the official application of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople for his passports.

It is reported that two Turkish gunboats have appeared before Galatz, and fears are

entertained that their object is to destroy the railway-bridge over the Sereth, and thus hamper the advance of the Russian army from Kicheneff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No 626.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby —(Received April 30.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 25, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of the note addressed by Prince Gortchakow to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, announcing the rupture of relations, which has been published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 626.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of April $\frac{13}{25}$, 1877.

Copie d'une Note du Chancelier de l'Empire à Tevfik Bey, Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie, en date de St. Pétersbourg, le 12 Avril, 1877.

LES graves discussions que le Cabinet Impérial a eu à poursuivre avec la Porte Ottomane en vue d'une pacification durable de l'Orient, n'ayant pas abouti à l'entente désirée, Sa Majesté l'Empereur, mon auguste Maître, se voit, à regret, obligé de recourir à la force des armes.

Veuillez informer votre Gouvernement que dès aujourd'hui la Russie se considère comme en état de guerre avec la Turquie.

La première conséquence est la cessation des relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien nous indiquer le nombre et la qualité des personnes dont se compose l'Ambassade Ottomane à St. Pétersbourg, afin que nous puissions vous envoyer les passeports nécessaires.

Quant aux sujets Ottomanes résidant en Russie, ceux qui désireront quitter le pays sont libres de le faire; ceux qui préféreront y rester, sont pleinement assurés de jouir de la protection des lois.

Recevez, &c.

No. 627.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 110. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, April 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams exchanged yesterday between Mr. Consul Green and myself respecting the passage of the provision trains to Nichsich.

Dervish Pasha thus apparently complained to Mr. Green of ill-treatment experienced by the convoys from the Montenegrins, and his message was couched in terms well calculated to irritate Prince Nicholas. In making the communication I was, therefore, careful to soften the asperities of his Excellency's language; but the Prince was, nevertheless, deeply offended at the suspicions insinuated by the Pasha of breach of faith on his Highness's part, and it required all my assurances that I could not believe that the Turkish Commander-in-chief really doubted his honour to prevent a strong expression of resentment.

I am myself thoroughly convinced of the good faith with which the Montenegrins are acting, having taken every means in my power to assure myself that the Prince's orders are

faithfully executed; and, as I am allowed to see all the telegrams received by His Highness on the subject of the provision trains, I believe myself justified in vouching for the fairness with which the Montenegrin authorities have behaved. But I still fear that Dervish Pasha will take advantage of any pretext, however unfounded, to interrupt the transport of the Montenegrin grain, which is being forwarded to Rieka very slowly; while, on the other hand, the provisioning of Nichsich is almost completed. If I see that I can safely absent myself for a day or two next week, I shall not hesitate to go to Scutari, and discuss the question with Dervish Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 627.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Monson.

Scutari, April 20, 1877, 10·15 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF complains bitterly of treatment of convoys going to Nichsich; begs you to ascertain whether Turks will be allowed to finish revictualling. They are prepared to accomplish faithfully transport grain.

Inclosure 2 in No. 627.

Mr. Monson to Consul Kirby Green.

Cettigné, April 20, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
PRINCE Nicholas desires me to reply to your telegram of this morning that he does not understand what is complained of. There is no reason to apprehend any ill-treatment, nor has any obstacle been raised on His Highness's part to the passage of the convoys for Nichsich, the safety of which is guaranteed by His Highness's word, pledged not only to the Turkish authorities, but also to me.

No. 628.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 111. Political.)
Cettigné, April 21, 1877.

My Lord,
PRINCE Nicholas said to me yesterday that in the event of the recommencement of hostilities, which he yet hopes may somehow or other be avoided, he will renew his orders against mutilations; but that he should not be able to prevent retaliation by the Montenegrins if the Turks set the example of barbarity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 629.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 112. Political.)
Cettigné, April 21, 1877.

My Lord,
ALL the information received here goes to prove that the Turks continue to accumulate troops in the Herzegovina; but I do not think there is immediate danger of active hostilities; and the Voïvode Vukotich has probably a force amply sufficient to check an advance upon Nichsich. On the Albanian side the Turks are far too weak, and too busy with the Mirdites to be dangerous.

Prince Nicholas informed me to-day that eight Russian surgeons and eighteen Sisters of Charity are already on their way to Montenegro, as well as a new Director of the Ambulances, in succession to Privy Councillor de Buch, who has served his allotted period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 630.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 113. Political.)
Cettigné, April 21, 1877.

My Lord,
I UNDERSTAND that Prince Nicholas has addressed instructions to his Delegates to explain to Count Andrassy, on their arrival at Vienna, that His Highness is still animated by a spirit of conciliation, but that the exigencies of the Turks, especially respecting the Kutchi and the refugees, are inadmissable.

My Austrian colleague is very reserved as to his recent communications with the Prince, and has exacted from him a promise not to converse with me on the subject, a restriction at which His Highness is not a little irritated.

M. Yonine, the Russian Agent, will reach Cettigné the day after to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 631.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 141.)
Rome, April 22, 1877.

My Lord,
I HAVE just had an interview with M. Melegari, to whom I communicated the substance of Mr. Layard's telegram of the 21st instant, reporting what passed at his Excellency's first interview with the Grand Vizier, and I also acquainted M. Melegari with your Lordship's reply to Mr. Layard, and requested to be informed whether, if the Porte made an appeal for the mediation of the Powers, and it was accepted by Russia, the Italian Government would be ready to take part in the mediation.

M. Melegari replied that the Italian Government, only too happy to contribute by any means they could to the preservation of peace, would willingly join the other Powers in mediation, if it was asked for by the Porte and accepted by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

P.S.—I inclose a copy of a confidential memorandum, giving substance of Mr. Layard's telegram, and your Lordship's reply, which I gave to M. Melegari.

A. P.

Inclosure in No. 631.

Memorandum.

(Confidentielle.)
ARRIVÉ à Constantinople dans l'après-midi du 21, Mr. Layard a eu une longue conversation avec le Grand Vizier le soir même. Il l'a trouvé plutôt découragé que belliqueux. Il a parlé de l'état de pénurie dans lequel se trouve la Turquie comme une raison pourquoi elle ne pouvait plus attendre de nouvelles négociations.

Le Grand Vizier s'est référé pourtant à l'Article VIII du Traité de Paris comme offrant le seul espoir de paix.

Mr. Layard l'a encouragé dans cette idée sans pourtant y insister, suggérant en même temps que si les Puissances acceptaient la médiation le Sultan pourraient spontanément décréter le désarmement.

Mr. Layard a fait comprendre au Grand Vizier qu'il n'y avait aucun changement dans l'esprit public en Angleterre à l'égard de la Turquie et l'a engagé à ne pas se faire des illusions là-dessus.

Après une longue discussion, le Grand Vizier a promis de consulter ses collègues sur les points suivants, savoir, appel à l'Article VIII du Traité de Paris, désarmement dans le cas de l'acceptation de la médiation par les Puissances, châtiment des coupables dans les massacres de la Bulgarie, &c.

Mr. Layard demande s'il doit insister sur un appel à l'Article VIII du Traité de Paris lequel, d'après lui, offrirait la seule chance, quoique faible, d'éviter la guerre.

Lord Derby a répondu qu'il craint qu'il ne soit trop tard pour une action diplomatique,

mais que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté serait disposé à accueillir favorablement un appel de la Porte à la médiation si les autres Puissances voudraient s'y associer, et si elle était accepté par la Russie.

Le 22 Avril.

No. 632.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 143. Confidential.) *Rome, April 23, 1877.*

My Lord,

M. MELEGARI has read to me a telegram from the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, from which I learnt for the first time that an instruction had been sent to him some days ago to suggest to the Porte the expediency—as perhaps affording an opening to direct negotiations between Russia and Turkey, by which war might be avoided—of the Sultan sending a Special Envoy to compliment the Czar on his arrival at Kichenell. The Chargé d'Affaires reports the conversation which he had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject, and his Excellency's refusal to adopt the course suggested. A further telegram states that Mr. Layard had given the same advice, but that it had been declined.

I could not conceal from M. Melegari my surprise and regret that he had not informed me of the above instruction at the time when it would have had the most interest, viz., at the time when it was sent. It was a great pity, I said, that there should be even the appearance of a want of entire frankness in our communications.

M. Melegari replied that he had been under the impression that he had told me of it, at all events, he could assure me that if he had omitted to do so, it was entirely through inadvertence.

I understand that the idea of suggesting to the Sultan to send this Envoy came from Chevalier Nigra, but almost immediately after sending the instructions to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, the Italian Government learnt from their Ambassador at Vienna that the Austrian Government, having made the inquiry at St. Petersburgh whether an Envoy from the Sultan would be received by the Emperor, was informed that it was now too late.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 633.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 144. Confidential.) *Rome, April 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 152, Confidential, of the 18th instant, relative to the questions raised by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, in a conversation with your Lordship, as to further steps being taken to arrest the outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey, and upon efforts being made to localize the war, and in the course of an interview which I have had with M. Melegari to-day, I acquainted his Excellency with what passed on the occasion referred to.

M. Melegari admitted that the possession of Constantinople by Russia would be prejudicial to the interests of Italy, though not to the same extent, he observed, as to those of Great Britain, whose communications with the Black Sea and with other parts of the East were of more importance than those of Italy.

I replied that, though the interests of Great Britain might be the greater of the two, still those of Italy were sufficiently great, and that I hoped that in the event referred to appearing probable, we should be able to come to an understanding as to what was to be done to prevent it.

M. Melegari replied that he trusted the circumstance alluded to would never arise.

I should add that his Excellency has once or twice, in the course of general conversation, expressed the opinion that Russia would not press matters to such an extremity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 634.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Rome, April 24, 1877.*

IN accordance with previous arrangements, reported in my despatch No. 134 of the 18th instant, the interrogations respecting the foreign policy of the Italian Government were developed yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies. They had reference to the past, present, and future conduct of the Ministry in regard to the Eastern question.

The Marquis Visconti Venosta commenced the proceedings in a very temperate speech, abstaining from any hostile criticism of the policy of the Ministry, his only wish being, he said, to give them the opportunity of making such declarations, without binding themselves in regard to unforeseen eventualities, as might have for effect to calm the public mind. The questions on which he desired these declarations were as follows:—

1. That the Government has no special engagements beyond those resulting from Treaties and published documents.

2. That their relations with all the Powers are equally cordial and intimate as they were before recent events, and that the reports in a contrary sense are entirely unfounded.

3. That Italy will be ready to unite her endeavours to those of the other neutral Powers for localizing the war as much as possible.

4. That Italy firmly intends remaining neutral; that in the present state of things she has confidence in being able to do so, and consequently has no thought of making armaments and other special arrangements which might give rise to uneasiness both at home and abroad, and alarm public credit already shaken by the general situation in Europe.

In proportion as the speech of M. Visconti Venosta was moderate, that of the two succeeding speakers, both members of the Ministerial party, was violent against the Government.

Signor Petruccelli accused the Ministry of being led by England, advocated a Russian alliance, and expressed the most earnest wishes for the success of the Slavs, while Signor Mucilino attributed all the present complications to the intrigues of Russia, exciting immense laughter in the Chamber by presenting a heavy packet of papers which he said contained accounts of the iniquities perpetrated by that Power, and urged the Government to ally themselves with England and Turkey in defence of the just rights of the Sultan.

The Duca di Cesaro followed, distributing some blame but more praise upon the Ministry. He ended by expressing a hope that the Government was free from any engagements and intended to remain neutral.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, after thanking the previous speakers for affording him an opportunity of explaining the policy of the Government, observed that that policy was founded upon the principles announced in the Ministerial manifesto which had been read by the President of the Council on the formation of the Ministry, viz., maintenance of friendly relations with all Powers, upholding independence and dignity of the country, &c., &c. His Excellency then gave a brief sketch of the events which preceded the meeting of the Conference at Constantinople, and protested against the reproach of Signor Petruccelli that the Government was led by England. He declared that the Ministry was free from any engagement whatever with any Power, was on good terms with all, and that they intended to follow a policy of neutrality, imposed upon Italy by her present condition, unless in the event of the national interests requiring to be defended. Should the case occur in which a departure from a policy of neutrality should become necessary, Parliament would be called upon to sanction the decisions of the Government. As a proof that Italy was in no way engaged to Russia he referred to the circumstance (reported in my despatch No 139 of the 20th instant) of Russia having confided the care of Russian interests to Italian Consuls in certain localities in the East where there was no German Consul—an arrangement his Excellency contended which could not have been made if there existed any secret compact between the two States.

After a few words in reply from M. Visconti Venosta, who remarked that no notice had been taken of his wish for a declaration that no armaments would be made, but who took note with satisfaction of the other declarations made by the Minister as to Italy being free from engagements and intending to remain neutral, Signor Petruccelli expressed himself as not satisfied with the reply he had received, and intimated that he would change his interrogation into an interpellation.

The President of the Council then rose, and, after affirming that Italy had remained faithful to the programme announced by him on his accession to office, asserted that Italy

had issued from her diplomatic negotiations free from any engagements, but with the friendship of all the Powers. He declared it to be the intention of the Government to remain neutral, but also referred, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs had done before him, to eventualities in which a different policy might be necessary for the national interests. His Excellency also declared that no decision would be taken without the participation of Parliament, and concluded by proclaiming the friendship of Italy for all Powers, and especially the neighbouring ones (meaning thereby, I presume, to set at rest any uneasiness which may still exist in Austria in connection with previous rumours in regard to the Trentino question), the desire of the Government to co-operate with them to diminish the evils of the inevitably impending conflict, and the confidence of Italy in the valour of the King and army.

The report I have now made is taken from that of the "Opinione," which is the best I have seen. I was myself present during the greater part of the debate, but it is almost impossible to hear a word that passes in the Diplomatic Tribune. I understand that the "Italie" is to publish a report *in extenso* of the speech of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I shall have the honour of forwarding a copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 635.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Rome, April 25, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation, as given by the "Italie," of the speeches of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and of the President of the Council on the foreign policy of Italy, which was brought under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies the day before yesterday.

Your Lordship will see that nothing can be more positive or explicit than the declarations of both Ministers that Italy is free from any engagement with other Powers, and that the Italian Government intends to observe a policy of neutrality in the war between Russia and Turkey, unless circumstances should arise in which the interests or honour of the country may demand the adoption of a different course.

M. Melegari, in the course of his speech, took occasion to allude to the rumours which were at one time prevalent, and have recently been revived, of a nature to excite the public mind in Italy and anxiety in neighbouring States; and he gave to such rumours the most emphatic contradiction.

M. Depretis spoke also in the same sense; and, in pointed allusion to Austria, observed:—

"Italy, I believe I may affirm, has honourably regulated her relations with all the Powers, more especially with those who are her neighbours, and whose prosperity she considers as her prosperity, and as a principal condition of her security."

The "Opinione," however, in an article of which I inclose a translatio-extract, takes exception to the declarations of the Ministers, principally on the ground that they gave no answer on the question of armaments.

It seems to me, however, that it would not be fair to attach too much importance to this silence, for probably no Government, considering the present aspect of political affairs, would wish to debar themselves by a public declaration from making any sort of preparations to place the country in a position to meet the exigencies of an unforeseen future, although, at the same time, sincerely desirous of remaining at peace with all Powers.

As a matter of fact, I hear from M. Melegari that the Italian Government has no present intention of making any preparations whatever.

I have marked in red pencil some of the principal passages in M. Melegari's and M. Depretis' speeches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 635.

Extract from the "Opinione" of April 25, 1877.

(Translation.)

YESTERDAY'S sitting of the Chamber satisfied but few of those who were present, and we fear that the perusal of the speeches will not prove to be any more satisfactory.

Neither the majority nor the Government will have gained anything by the debate. The latter, by their persistent refusal to throw light on the question of armaments, have caused interpretations to be placed on their policy little imagined by them.

We do not pretend to exact from the Government a categorical assurance that they will not undertake extraordinary armaments in case of necessity. For such a step no one could blame them; we may only blame them if, by their policy, they should place Italy in such a position as to make unusual armaments a necessity.

Nor are we reassured by the declaration of the Prime Minister that, should the necessity for important measures arise, the Government will not fail to take Parliament into their deliberations.

We do not believe that the Government would declare war without the consent of Parliament; but supposing that the country is bound by some secret Treaty unknown to it, what could Parliament do then?

And, again, would Italian interests be threatened in the event of an Austrian occupation of Bosnia?

The Government think not, but the refusal of the Foreign Minister to give an explicit answer to the questions of M. Visconti Venosta respecting armaments leaves everything in a state of uncertainty, which is not dispelled by the other declarations of the President of the Council.

What we had the right to expect from the Government is that they should have avoided a reserve, which appeared to be studied, but which, perhaps, was only a result of their conviction that further explanations would be superfluous.

No. 636.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 23, 1877.*

I COMMUNICATED to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday, respecting the intention of the Porte to appeal to the Powers for mediation under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, and his Excellency said that the German Government would gladly co-operate with Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers with the consent of Russia, but that if the appeal was not soon made it would be too late.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 637.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 23, 1877.*

BARON WERTHER, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, having resigned, the Emperor has been pleased to confer the Grand Cross of the Order of the Black Eagle on his Excellency in recognition of his long and faithful services, and to appoint Prince Henry Reuss VII, late Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, in his place, as German Ambassador to Constantinople on special service during the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 638.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 165.)
Berlin, April 26, 1877.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of to-day, I asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the German Government proposed to reply to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th instant and in what sense?

His Excellency replied that having already acknowledged the receipt of the Circular verbally when it was communicated by the Russian Ambassador, he saw no necessity under present circumstances to reply also in writing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 639.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 169.)
Berlin, April 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 156 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose, herewith, the official notification from the "Reichsanzeiger," that the German Government has assumed the protectorate of the Russian subjects in Turkey during the war at the request of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 639.

Extract from the "Reichsanzeiger."

LE Gouvernement Russe ayant rompu ses relations diplomatiques avec la Porte, le Chargé d'Affaires Russe, M. de Nelidoff, a quitté Constantinople, le 23 de ce mois, avec le personnel de l'Ambassade et du Consulat. Aux termes d'un arrangement fait pour ce cas entre les Cabinets de Berlin et de St. Pétersbourg, la représentation pour les intérêts des sujets Russes est transmise maintenant à l'Ambassade Allemande à Constantinople et aux Consulats Allemands en Turquie. Le Gouvernement Impérial s'est chargé avec empressement de cette tâche, et a très volontiers donné ainsi un nouveau témoignage des relations amicales qui existent entre la Russie et l'Allemagne.

No. 640.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 364.)
Vienna, April 23, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum containing the substance of your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday on the present situation at Constantinople, which I read this day to Baron Orczy.

His Excellency expressed some doubt as to the Italian proposal having been made with the sanction of Russia, and he fears that, unless action has been at once taken by the Porte the publication of a manifesto may prevent a Turkish Envoy being received by the Emperor Alexander.

I said that if the Porte, however, offered all that could be reasonably asked of it, Russia could hardly put herself in the wrong by declining to accept a mediation, and he answered that though Count Andrassy would doubtless do anything in his power to prevent war he fears that the time is now too short, in his Excellency's opinion, to afford any hope of the success of an endeavour to preserve peace.

The Russian Ambassador stated to-day, that he had not yet received Prince

Gortchakow's Circular, but it is generally believed that it was delivered to him by a Russian courier, who passed through Vienna this morning on his way to Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 640.

Memorandum.

April 23, 1877.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople having informed Mr. Layard that he had reason to believe that the mission of an Ambassador from the Porte would be acceptable to Rusia, Lord Derby telegraphed to Mr. Layard yesterday that the Porte would be well advised to send one, and to acquaint the Russian Government with their intention to do so without delay.

Lord Derby has also inquired of Lord A. Loftus whether he knows of any course which could be suggested to the Porte, which would be accepted by Russia with a view to the suspension of hostilities.

Mr. Layard was informed on the 21st instant that at a Council held that day, the war party had lost ground, and the idea of making a last appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris was favourably entertained.

If such an appeal is made Count Andrassy was informed yesterday by Sir A. Buchanan that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to reply favourably to it, if the other Powers would join, and if it would be accepted by Russia.

No. 641.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 368.)
Vienna, April 24, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the telegrams from Sir Augustus Paget of the 22nd instant, and Lord Odo Russell of the 23rd, which have been communicated to me by your Lordship, I have informed Baron Orczy that the Governments of Germany and Italy are both ready to co-operate with Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers who are parties to the Treaty of Paris, if the Porte makes an appeal for their mediation under the VIIIth Article of that Treaty.

According to the last reports, however, which have been received by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, it would appear that the Turkish Government are not likely to adopt the course which Mr. Layard has recommended to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 642.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 369.)
Vienna, April 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a French translation of a question which was addressed to the Government in the Chamber of Deputies on the 22nd instant, by Dr. Giskra, in his own name and that of forty-one members of the House, as to the course which will be adopted in the event of war and during the hostilities which may take place between Russia and Turkey.

I also inclose a French translation of extracts published in yesterday's "Correspondance Autrichienne" from the principal Vienna journals, on the subject of the question put to the Government by Dr. Giskra, and on the rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 642.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of April 24, 1877.

LE Dr. Giskra a adressé au Gouvernement, en son nom et au nom de quarante et un de ses collègues, l'interpellation suivante relative à la question d'Orient :—

"Depuis le 29 Octobre, 1876, date de la réponse faite par le Gouvernement à une interpellation concernant la crise Orientale, les choses ont pris une tournure qui ne permet plus de douter de l'explosion imminente d'une guerre Turco-Russe. L'ouverture des hostilités, eu égard au Traité signé à Paris en 1856, et aux intérêts nombreux et graves de la Monarchie Austro-Hongroise sur ce point, est d'une importance capitale. Le cours des hostilités et l'issue de la guerre peuvent faire naître une question vitale. L'attitude que le Gouvernement prendra à cet égard aura une portée incalculable. Les représentants à la Chambre ont donc de justes motifs de demander à cet égard des explications aussi nettes que possible. Les Soussignés posent en conséquence la question suivante :—

"Le Gouvernement est-il en état de fournir des renseignements sur la ligne de conduite que suivra la monarchie dans le cas où la guerre viendrait à éclater et au cours des hostilités éventuelles? Si oui, quelles seront les intentions et le but du Ministère commun et quels moyens pense-t-il mettre en œuvre pour en obtenir la réalisation?"

Inclosure 2 in No. 642.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of April 24, 1877.

REVUE DES JOURNAUX.—La rupture formelle des relations diplomatiques entre la Russie et la Turquie est un fait. Le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie, M. Nelidoff, a quitté Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade. Les Consuls Russes ont également suspendu leurs fonctions et plusieurs d'entre eux sont déjà partis. La protection des sujets Russes en Turquie a été confiée à l'Allemagne. La parole est désormais aux canons.

Ici où l'on prévoyait depuis longtemps déjà ce dénoûment, la nouvelle de la rupture définitive entre les deux États n'a surpris personne. On attend avec assez de calme le développement ultérieur des choses convaincu qu'on est que la monarchie, si elle était obligée d'intervenir activement pour sauvegarder ses intérêts, ne serait pas surprise par les événements. C'est dans ce sens que s'expriment, presque sans exception, les journaux Viennois en discutant l'interpellation présentée hier à la Chambre par le Dr. Giskra et consorts au sujet de la question d'Orient.

Le "Fremdenblatt" dit: "L'Autriche était neutre et a su garder sa neutralité pendant la guerre Turco-Serbe, elle saura aussi la maintenir pendant la lutte qui va s'engager entre la Russie et la Turquie. Une des parties belligérantes a été remplacée par une autre, le théâtre de la guerre sera transféré dans d'autres régions, mais la monarchie continuera d'observer rigoureusement la même neutralité que jusqu'à présent, l'Autriche-Hongrie se tiendra en 'réserve,' si l'on peut employer cette expression militaire, à propos de la situation politique actuelle. Elle restera neutre et évitera soigneusement de s'engager dans une action. Il se pourrait naturellement qu'il vint un moment où cette politique d'abstention ne serait plus à sa place, ne serait plus possible, où l'on se verrait forcé d'abandonner un rôle purement passif pour entrer en action. C'est là une éventualité qu'il est bon de prendre en considération. Nous ne doutons pas que la réponse qui sera faite à l'interpellation, lors même qu'elle ne nous apprendrait rien de nouveau, ne produise une impression favorable dans le public politique du continent."

La "Tagespresse" dit que le Gouvernement devrait avoir le don de la divination pour pouvoir répondre d'une manière positive à l'interpellation concernant son attitude à l'avenir.

La "Vorstadt-Zeitung" estime que le Dr. Giskra eût mieux fait de ne pas rappeler le Traité de Paris dans son interpellation. Tout le monde, excepté toutefois le monde Russe et celui des Slavs méridionaux, désirerait, il est vrai, le maintien de ce Traité, mais personne n'en parle plus. Et l'Autriche, ou ne fût-ce même que le Parlement Autrichien, se ferait le Don Quichotte du Traité de Paris? Personne ne pense plus aujourd'hui en Europe au parchemin des vieux Traités, chacun ne songe qu'à sauver sa peau et à préparer dans son intérêt les Traités de l'avenir.

Le "Tagblatt" dit:—"Le programme Européen comprend deux points: la localisation de la guerre et les mesures à prendre pour empêcher tout agrandissement du territoire Russe."

No. 644*.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 374.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 25, 1877.*

MR. JOHN ARTHUR EVANS, an English gentleman, who has been travelling in Croatia, and has visited the disturbed districts in Bosnia near the military frontier, with a view to inquire into the truth of atrocities alleged to have been committed against refugees who had returned to their villages, has addressed a letter to me, of which I inclose a copy, complaining of improper conduct towards him on the part of the Austrian authorities, although he was provided with a Foreign Office passport.

I have the honour also to inclose the copy of a note which I have addressed to Count Andrassy, communicating to his Excellency a copy of Mr. Evans' statement of the unjustifiable and vexatious proceedings adopted towards him, and expressing a hope that the functionaries of whom he complains may be severely reprimanded.

Baron Orczy, to whom I have spoken on the subject, said that it had been found necessary some time ago to arrest and remove from the frontier emissaries of the foreign Slav societies, who had been endeavouring to prevent the pacification of Bosnia, and that, as Mr. Evans had been wandering about the country without any apparent object, the police had doubtless suspected him of being engaged in similar practices.

Mr. Evans' proceedings may also account for a statement which reached me lately, that the attention of the Austrian Government had been called to intrigues of English agents with the Bosnian insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 644*.

Mr. Evans to Sir A. Buchanan.

Casa Giorgio, North Cavachevich, Borgo Rella,

Your Excellency, *Ragusa, April 18, 1877.*

I, the undersigned British subject, travelling with a passport from the British Foreign Office, on the Croatian border, wish to bring the following facts before your Excellency's notice:—

1. That on arriving at Lapatz, in the Bezirk of that name, and although at the time

in a state of great bodily exhaustion, I was immediately forced to accompany a police officer to the Bureau, and that then on my showing my English passport to the Bezirkshauptmann that official declared it to be insufficient and invalid as not possessing the *visé* of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate in London. That having myself personally attended at the said Consulate to inquire whether a *visé* was necessary or advisable, I was then and there informed that such was not required in the Austro-Hungarian dominions, and further that it had ceased to be affixed to English passports, and that on my further stating at the said Consulate that my journey might lead me through the military confines, I received the further assurance that such was never now required on the military confines. That on my stating the above to the Bezirkshauptmann he intimated that I was speaking an untruth, and used language and put inquiries to me which an Englishman is not accustomed to listen to. That, finally, on my exposing to him the grave responsibility which he would incur in arresting me or in interfering in any way with my movements, he suffered me to depart.

2. That, however, during my stay at Lapatz I was treated by the officials as a *persona suspecta*, and an impertinent espionage was practised on my personal movements.

3. That the said Bezirkshauptmann took it upon himself to warn in particular my host, Djuro Raceta, against any communications with me.

4. That it being my intention to visit the Bosnian town of Kulen Vakuf, an undertaking at the present moment of some considerable risk for a stranger owing to the fanaticism of the inhabitants, and their prolonged isolation from intercourse with the Croatian side of the border, I had engaged as the only safe guide and interpreter in the Turkish town a certain Mili Pavichich, who, having been in Turkish employment at Kulen Vakup, was on good terms with all the inhabitants. That the said Bezirkshauptmann endeavoured to induce the said Mili Pavichich not to accompany me on my journey to Kulen Vakup; and that further, as was shown by the event, had the said Bezirkshauptmann succeeded in depriving me of this guide I should in all human probability have lost my life.

5. That on my arrival at Serb, in the district of the same Bezirkshauptmann, although I had with me introductions to respectable inhabitants of the place, and amongst them to the Captain in command of the battalion of the 33rd Hungarian Regiment there stationed, the subordinate of the said Bezirkshauptmann treated me in a precisely similar manner, and was with difficulty prevailed on not to send me to Lapatz.

Of these facts the said Djuro Raceta and Mili Pavichich, both of Lapatz, and Stefan Torbica, of Serb, are witnesses.

I need only add that the object of my journey was of a purely humanitarian nature, and connected with the state and sufferings of the Bosnian refugees.

Hoping that your Excellency will think fit to bring these facts and *gravamina* under the notice of the proper authorities, I have, &c.

(Signed) A. J. EVANS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 644*.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

M. le Comte, *Vienna, April 25, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Arthur John Evans, an English gentleman travelling on the Croatian frontier, who complains of improper treatment which he met with from the police authorities at Lapatz.

Mr. Evans' journey had been undertaken, I understand, with a view to the relief of Bosnian refugees; and he also appears to have visited Bosnia in order to inquire into the truth of atrocities against the Christians in that province, of which their Mahommedan neighbours are alleged to have been recently guilty.

But, whatever may have been his object for travelling in Croatia, your Excellency will, I feel assured, cause the police authorities to be severely reprimanded who treated with disrespect a passport of the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of my Sovereign the Queen.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Le "Vaterland," organe fédéraliste, fait observer au sujet de cette interpellation:—"La politique Orientale de la monarchie a devant elle une voie nettement tracée. L'Autriche devra agir en fidèle alliée de la Russie, les politiciens libéraux, tels que les Herbst et les Giskra, ont fait de cette politique une absolue nécessité."

En présence des dangers de la situation extérieure la "Presse" fait ressortir la nécessité qu'il y a de faire taire toute rivalité, toute discorde à l'intérieure, et de veiller à ce que l'organisme potitico-financier de la monarchie fonctionne avec autant de sûreté que de précision, ce qui est dans l'intérêt de l'Hongrie aussi bien que de l'Autriche.

La "Gazette Allemande," par contre, juge plus opportun de continuer, toujours avec son mot d'ordre: "pas de nouvelles charges," à exciter systématiquement l'une contre l'autre les deux parties de la monarchie.

No. 643.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 370.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 25, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow's Circular, stating the grounds on which the Emperor Alexander has considered it expedient to declare war to Turkey, was communicated yesterday to Count Andrassy by the Russian Ambassador.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 644.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 373.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 25, 1877.*

I AM told at the Foreign Office here that Count Zichy is to retain his post at Constantinople, but that no time has yet been fixed for his return, nor is it likely to be immediate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 645.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 376.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 26, 1877.*

YOUR Lordship has doubtless learnt from Constantinople that Tahir Bey has been sent to Hungary to present to the Government of that country about forty volumes of classics, which were removed from Ofen about four centuries ago from the library of Mathias Corvinus, as a return for the sympathy shown for Turkey last spring by the students of the University of Buda-Pesth.

I understand that the Government having been unwilling that Tahir Bey, who arrived here some days ago, should proceed to Pesth, as his presence there might have led to inconvenient political demonstrations, it was arranged that the volumes in question should be delivered to Baron Wenckheim, the Hungarian Minister attached to His Majesty's person, who will forward them to Pesth, and Tahir Bey will be granted an audience by the Emperor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 646.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 677.) *Vienna, April 26, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a French translation of extracts from the leading journals of Vienna, published in last night's "Correspondance Autrichienne," containing observations on the Russian manifesto, from which your Lordship will learn the view taken of it by public opinion here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 646.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of April 25, 1877.

REVUE DES JOURNAUX.—Les journaux commentent le manifeste de guerre de l'Empereur Alexandre. Le "Fremdenblatt" se borne à paraphraser cette importante énonciation qui, dit-il, ne manquera pas de produire le plus grand effet dans la "sainte Russie."

La "Tagespresse" constate avec satisfaction que le manifeste ne fait "aucune allusion à l'idée Panslaviste et ne cherche pas à exciter les passions religieuses et nationales de la masse." Cette feuille regrette, par contre, l'absence d'un passage, disant que la "Russie ne songe pas à faire des conquêtes en Orient."

Le "Vaterland" dit: "De 'l'idée Slave' ou du 'protectorat naturel sur les Slaves' il n'en est pas question dans le manifeste; la Russie se gère simplement en Puissance qui prend sur elle d'assurer l'exécution des vœux formulés par l'Europe, mission dont l'Angleterre même ne saurait contester la légitimité."

La "Nouvelle Presse Libre" dit: "Aujourd'hui a été commis le plus odieux des attentats contre la paix du monde. C'est la Russie seule qui trouble la paix. Mais cette guerre lui sera funeste; que les Turcs soient vainqueurs ou vaincus, la Russie n'atteindra jamais, vu les intérêts de la plus haute importance que les Puissances ont à sauvegarder, le but de ses aspirations en Orient. Elle se précipite dans une guerre dont elle ne tirera aucun profit, et plus elle se montrera ardente et opiniâtre à poursuivre son but, plus l'intérêt de l'Autriche, de l'Angleterre, de l'Allemagne, et finalement aussi de la France, réagira contre ses efforts. La soi-disant mission humanitaire de la Russie n'est que du pur 'humbug.' Son intention est d'établir la suprématie du monde Slave."

La "Morgenpost," la "Vorstadt-Zeitung," et le "Tagblatt" font chorus avec la "Nouvelle Presse Libre." Voici ce que dit entre autres le "Tagblatt:" "Le monde sait fort bien ce qui pousse la Russie à la guerre contre la Turquie, mais il ne fallait pas que le manifeste le déclarât ouvertement. On ne pouvait pas prononcer le mot qui eût enthousiasmé la Russie, mais qui aurait provoqué en même temps une coalition de l'Europe contre cet enthousiasme, et le grand défaut de ce manifeste c'est précisément qu'il n'a pu être vrai et sincère en ce moment solennel, où l'on voit disparaître le fantôme de la paix évoqué par la diplomatie, où l'illusion fait place à la réalité. L'extrême gravité de la situation se dévoile aux yeux de tous. Ce que le manifeste du Czar a dû taire et ce que Moltke a dû déclarer au Parlement, voilà qui fait mal augurer de l'avenir. C'est là cette politique de paix, avec laquelle on a amusé le monde tant que les préparatifs de guerre n'étaient pas terminés, c'est ainsi que s'affirment aujourd'hui ces rapports amicaux et intimes entre les différentes Puissances."

La "Gazette Allemande" dit:—"Et si le salut de l'Etat peut nous imposer un jour une intervention en Bosnie, ce même salut semble exiger de nous aujourd'hui déjà, une sommation qui arrêterait les Russes au delà du Pruth, et cela d'autant plus sûrement que l'Europe entière ne manquerait pas de s'associer à ce veto."

La "Presse" dit:—"Pour le moment toutes les nouvelles de l'Orient sont reléguées à l'arrière-plan en présence du discours 'belliqueux' prononcé au Reichstag Allemand par le Feld-Maréchal Comte Moltke. Ce discours fera grand bruit, en France surtout on l'interprétera dans le sens d'une menace. Et pourtant on aurait tort de s'exagérer la portée de 'l'allusion' donnée au Reichstag de Berlin. En réalité il ne s'agit pas d'autre chose que d'un sérieux avertissement adressé à la France de ne pas profiter des troubles d'Orient pour susdir quelque intrigue diplomatique contre l'Empire d'Allemagne. A cette

occasion la 'Presse' s'inscrit en faux contre les bruits alarmants colportés dans la presse étrangère au sujet de la politique Orientale de la monarchie. L'Autriche, dit-elle, ne sortira point de sa neutralité tant que ses intérêts ne seront pas directement menacés, et qu'elle ne se verra pas forcée de les défendre, ce qui n'est nullement le cas aujourd'hui.

"Excepté les feuilles Tchéques, qui désirent une co-opération de l'Autriche avec la Russie et prétendent que cette politique répondrait seule aux intérêts de la monarchie, les journaux de province se déclarent tous contre une semblable politique. Le maintien d'une stricte neutralité—telle est la devise de ces organes. En Galicie la presse Polonaise se place également à ce point de vue et fait ressortir les dangers auxquels s'exposerait l'Autriche en se lançant dans une politique d'action. Le 'Tzas de Cracovie,' par exemple, recommande à l'Autriche une 'prudente neutralité.' Il faut renoncer, dit-il, à toute idée d'annexion vu que, à son avis, une extension en profondeur du territoire Dalmate, l'acquisition d'un 'Hinterland' pour cette province, pourrait bien entraîner la perte d'autres 'Hinterländer' de la monarchie."

No. 647.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 378.) *Vienna, April 26, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 374 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Brock, inclosing a Report from Mr. Arthur John Evans, respecting atrocities committed by Mussulmans against Christians in the disturbed districts of Bosnia, near the Croatian frontier.

I have forwarded a copy of Mr. Evans' Report to Mr. Consul Holmes, who has already taken measures to inquire into the circumstances to which it refers, as I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 360 of the 22nd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 647.

Mr. Evans to Captain Burton.

Dear Captain Burton, *Obbrovatzzo, April 19, 1877.*

I INCLOSE you the result of my investigation into the outrages recently committed by the Turks in Bosnia on returned and returning refugees and other Rayahs at Ochievo (great and little), and at Klekovatz and Vaganatz, in the neighbouring mountains. All the outrages were perpetrated beyond the limits of the territory held by the insurgents, and all on unarmed peasants, woman, and children.

To make my inquiry complete, I not only hunted up and examined (with the aid of a good German interpreter) twenty-three witnesses at various spots in the mountains of the Croatian Grenze and the insurgent territory, where they have now sought refuge, but also penetrated to the burnt villages of Ochievo, and verified the destruction of property, and with my own eyes. So far as Ochievo is concerned, I think I have substantiated the following facts:—

The villages of Great and Little Ochievo, then containing about forty families, were first burnt by the Turks on June 24 of last year, the inhabitants succeeding in escaping to Austro-Hungarian soil. The great misery of the fugitives of this part of the frontier—due, if the concurrent testimony of many witnesses be correct, to the mismanagement or, in many cases, absolute refusal of relief by the Bezirks-Hauptmann of the Lapatz district, intensified by the approach of winter, and the want of fodder for the cattle, which the villagers had succeeded in carrying with them—induced them to open a negotiation with the local Beys to allow their return on the old footing. Permission, with promises of security, was granted by the Mahommedan landlords, viz., Moya Kurtaghich Bey, Osman Agha Andjich, and Nedjun and Ismail Beys Kuknovich.

Twenty-three families returned and rebuilt their burnt cottages. The heads of these families were—

		No. of Souls in Family.
1.	Vaso Karanovich (Knez, or Village Elder)	7
2.	David „	17
3.	Damian „	10
4.	Djuro „	4
5.	Parvo „	8
6.	Blaze „	11
7.	Mili „	7
8.	Iliga „	6
9.	Mihailo Redich	11
10.	Luka „	8
11.	Vid „	27
12.	Blaze Steinich	8
13.	Mili „	8
14.	Milan Toukosich	11
15.	Mili „	5
16.	David „	2
17.	Marko Shipka	12
18.	Obrad „	17
19.	Djoko „	6
20.	Pero „	10
21.	Nikola „	12
22.	Iotim Skuratz	13
23.	Pero „	2

On Saturday, March 10, the Turks first made their appearance again, in number about 100, under leadership of Mugo Bey Bibanovich and Ali Bey Trooka, also of Ali Bey Kulinovich (who came later).

They plundered the houses and seized the cattle of David Karanovich and three others, and proceeding to the house of Vaso Karanovich, the Knez, or village Elder (who is the elected representative of the village in its relations with the Government), dispatched him with pistol shots, wounding also a relative, Tako Karanovich, who, however, escaped.

They beat some women with their guns, stripped some girls and women of their girdles and other ornaments, and were proceeding to further outrages, when Ali Bey Kulenovich rode up, and succeeded in rescuing the women. The Turks then made off with their plunder and the head of the village Knez to Kulin Vakup.

One of my witnesses, Gerg Pavichich, a Christian servant of the Turks, was in the town when they arrived, and saw the head brought in. This was afterwards given him by the Mudir to bury.

That night it was mooted in the village whether to fly at once or not, but the cold was bitter, the snow lay deep, and a fierce bora was blowing, so it was decided in the negative.

Next day (Sunday) the Turks appeared again, but in larger numbers; according to all accounts, from 200 to 300 redifs, under a Yuzbashi, and from 400 to 500 Bashi-Bazouks. The Kaimakam of Petrovatz, an Osmali, had the chief command, and with him Ali Bey Trooka, Ali Bey Kulenovich, and others.

The Turks came from Petrovatz, Bielaj, and Kulin Vakup.

A general scene of plunder and rapine followed. An attempt was made to seize some of the house fathers but all escaped, and there was a general stampede of villagers to the River Unnatz, then happily fordable. The Turks pursued firing pistols at fugitives. On the path I picked up two Turkish cartridges of American fabric, found fragments of women's clothing on thorns, &c., and hoof prints of pursuers still visible by the river. The scene at the river's bank must have been most horrible; many of the villagers had got across, but the Turks intercepted a good many women and children. Among the girls and women the best looking were seized and outraged on the spot—from ten to fifteen. The Ochievo witnesses did not wish to give names, and I would not press the point. Most of the men I examined gave the number at about ten, but a woman (the wife of the murdered Vaso Karanovich), who seemed to know more about this matter, gave the number as fifteen. A girl, Simeova Shipka, was flung into the river and also a child, Vid Shipka, but both were saved. One woman with child who had a banjar drawn on her gave birth prematurely. Another woman, Stana Karanovich, who had a baby in her arms, was seized by some of these ruffians, who made use of her own arms to throw her child into the river—the child was drowned. This horrible relation I heard from the father, Blaze Karanovich, and it was confirmed by others.

The Turks took all the moveables, stores, &c., cattle to amount of 450 sheep and goats, 55 oxen, &c., and 27 horses; and burnt all the villages, except two houses, saved, it is supposed, by their Mahometan landlords. I saw 21 burnt huts. Two children who had been forgotten in the hurry of the flight, Joven and Sergen Rodich, aged 2 and 3 respectively, were found afterwards frozen in the snow.

From a Mahometan merchant in Kulin Vakup (whose name I withhold) I heard that during the outrages of the second day at Ochievo, Ali Bey Kulanovich tried again to exert his influence in favour of humanity.

That he was overruled by the Kaimakam of Petrovatz and other Beys, who were for giving the soldiers and irregulars free vent, that an altercation ensued, and that in consequence of his gallant opposition the old Bey has since been arrested and has already passed some weeks in a Turkish prison at Petrovatz.

A few refugees, about 30, who had fled last autumn from the burnt village of Drinigh, returned this spring to the neighbouring mountains and built a small village at Klekovatza, where others of the Drinish refugees were already settled, consisting of five cottages. The Turks appeared here March 20. They murdered five of the men, viz., Vuchin-Pero and Iliga Ketzmann (brothers of the Pope Lazar Ketzmann, whom I saw and examined at Osreadka), and two others of another family of the same name, viz., Ioveta and Vuchin. They outraged nearly all the girls and women; I have the names of ten so maltreated, viz., Sava, Disa, Trevona, Toka Militza, Marin, Smiliana, Rushitza, and Mara, all of the family of Katzmann. Stoja Katzmann, the pope's wife, was beaten; I saw and examined her at Osreadka, and her arm still showed marks of violence. About 250 cattle, chiefly goats, were taken here and in the neighbourhood.

The Turks, who came chiefly from Petrovatz, numbered about 250, and were led by Murad Bey Kulenovich and Mehmat Borejevich. They were partly Bashi-Bazouks and partly Redifs under a Roladi. They cut off the heads of their victims and took them to Petrovatz.

Vaganatz, an isolated homestead, was fallen upon about the same date. I obtained full particulars from Djorgia Rodich, a daughter of the house, aged 13 to 14. She saw her father, Stephen Rodich, shot and his head cut off. A sick sister was thrown out of doors and her younger brother Obrat, aged 11, ran away, and after wandering four days in the mountains reached Unnatz. The Turks, after her father's murder, seized Djorgia, beat her with their guns, and tortured her in other ways to try and extort information from her about the insurgents who were not in this district and about whom she knows nothing. The house was then burnt and the cattle—twelve oxen, four horses—belonging to Stephen Rodich and Nikota Morateha driven off. The poor girl reached Osreadka, on the Croatian frontier, where I saw her in a wretched condition.

I also obtained general confirmation of the murder of the marriage party by Glanosh, four brothers Grosdanovich were slain and their heads, as in the previous instances, cut off and carried to Glanosh.

My witnesses are, as to Ochievo affair, David Militza and Andja Karanovich examined at Serb in Croatia, Laza-Shipka-Vid Rodich, Djuro-Shipka-Milan Rodich, Mili Karanovich, Jovan Jankovich, Stefan Karanovich, at Sienitza Grad, in insurgent territory; Mikaili Rodich, Blaze Karanovich, and wife of murdered Knez at Bobo Igusha, Gerg Pavinich at Lapatz, and a Mahometan merchant at Kulin Vakup, whose name I can produce if necessary.

For Klikovatza, Spiro Ketzmann examined at Serb, Pope Laza Ketzmann and his wife Stoga at Osreadka, for Vaganatz Djorgia Rodich at Osreadka, and Danuar Juritza, Jovan Skakich, and Obrad Barch at Unnatz, who had seen the headless body of Stephen Rodich and heard the account of the boy Obrad Rodich.

I have been at great pains to check all possible exaggeration, and I think you may rely on this as an accurate account.

Very, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR JOHN EVANS.

No. 648.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 379.)
Vienna, April 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Günne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 648.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Vienna, April* 25, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the so-called Conference of Field Marshals last week resolved itself into a categorical declaration on the part of each officer touching the perfection or want of the body of troops under his personal charge.

I am told that the machinery for mobilization was declared in perfect order, and that the wants of the army are heavy draught horses, a reserve of provisions, and a reserve of ammunition, The latter wants are to be supplied to the officers making requisition.

The question of "train" is one of considerable difficulty. The existing Government train will suffice only for the first line. Between the first and second line in case of complete mobilization the want is said to be 42,000 carts. Companies in this city tendered at 7 gulden per day per cart two horses. To change from a peace to a war footing, the immediate want is 129,000 horses. The cost of mobilization is put down at 41,000,000 of gulden, and the daily extra expenditure is said to be 3,000,000 of gulden.

The mobilization is said to be complete in eight days.

First the local civil authorities hunt up the first class of reservists necessary to place the three active battalions of each infantry regiment on its war strength. These at once concentrate at the depôts of the reserve part of the regiment in order to receive clothes, arms, and equipment. Under an officer they then march to join the active battalions, which have meantime moved into *ordre de bataille*. The *ordre de bataille* vary as a matter of course with the objective of the campaign. The duty of each line of railway is predetermined and understood, but on the 21st day after mobilization the railway peace-time officials are replaced by the railway corps, and the lines necessary fall exclusively in the hands of Government.

The Landwehr is mixed with the line in first line. Directly the active battalions are supplied the reserve depôt recruits to form two more, and possibly, a third battalion. Each officer on the reserve list knows his place, but be it remembered the reserve regiment thus formed has nothing to do with the active regiment, and may serve in a different part of the Empire.

How the system will answer remains to be proved. The individuality of each regiment is kept distinct, and it is not unlike the old French system now discarded—each soldier has to go to his depôt centre to be equipped. The French, on the contrary, take the reservists nearest at hand to make up their war strength. Each captain of a company keeps a book naming his strength, and has at hand the equipment for the reserve soldiers collected around the station he chances to occupy.

I am not aware that the Field Marshals were consulted as regards political intent. The problem of how to occupy and govern Bosnia and also Servia was discussed. More attention seemed to be paid to Servia, but this is quite intelligible, as the occupation of Servia must cause a modification in Russian plans. If I am rightly informed, there will be a mobilized force in Transylvania if the Government thinks necessary to interfere with Servia. It is understood that the desire of Count Andrassy is to do nothing.

The Archduke Albert would willingly occupy Bosnia, but on no account would he act in hostility to Russia. Meantime my personal friends on the staff, one and all, see their interest in thwarting Russian designs from the outset of the campaign.

My humble opinion is that the financial consideration weighs down all others, and that for the present at least the Austrian army will remain within the boundaries of its territory. Mobilization is a step which cannot be taken secretly, so there is not the slightest occasion to heed alarmist rumours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 649.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 381. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of last night, I have the honour to inform you that I endeavoured to-day to ascertain at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs whether it is intended to reply to the Russian Circular of the 19th instant, and I was informed that Count Andrassy had not yet expressed an opinion as to the expediency of doing so.

I had some conversation on the subject afterwards with my Italian colleague, who is of opinion that, while it would be inconvenient to enter into a discussion of the contents of the Circular, a simple acknowledgment of its receipt might be interpreted as an admission that Russia has just grounds for declaring war, and he spoke, therefore, of recommending his Government to leave it unanswered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 650.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 382. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April* 26, 1877.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the previous evening, I informed Baron Orczy yesterday that Mr. Layard had reason to believe that the Porte would appeal for the mediation of the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, and he stated in reply that, though the Ministry had no information on the subject from Constantinople, a step of the kind had probably been taken, as the Turkish Ambassador had asked to be received by Count Andrassy to make a communication to his Excellency from his Government. I ascertained subsequently from Aleko Pasha that this was the case, and that he was instructed to deliver to his Excellency a telegraphic circular appealing for the mediation of the Powers.

Count Andrassy, however, did not receive him until this afternoon, and he was only then able to execute his instructions, when he communicated also to his Excellency a second telegraphic communication, which reached him to-day, representing the invasion of Turkish territory by Russia simultaneously with the rupture of diplomatic relations, and without any regard to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, as a proceeding which will render the Russian Government alone responsible for the consequences of the war.

I am informed by Aleko Pasha that Count Andrassy, on receiving the Circular, expressed an opinion that, if the Porte, in rejecting the Russian Declaration, had accepted the Protocol, an arrangement might have been less difficult than it is under present circumstances, but that he promised to communicate with the other Powers, with a view to considering whether any action to promote the restoration of peace could be taken in consequence of the appeal now made by the Porte to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

I have reason to believe, however, that his Excellency considers it impossible to bring about an early cessation of hostilities, and that it would be inexpedient to interfere until the events of the war may offer a favourable opportunity for doing so. At least, my Italian colleague, who had been instructed to ascertain his views as to the Turkish Circular, which was received at Rome yesterday, has derived that impression from a conversation which he had with them to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 651.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 49. Political. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 20, 1877.

M. COGALNICEANO, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, called upon me to-day, and, in the course of a somewhat desultory conversation, made a variety of observations, which I lose no time in submitting to your Lordship.

The Minister was almost touching in the despairing view in which he spoke of his country. He remarked that, since 1848, Russian influence had had no existence in Roumania; that they had acted consistently during a long course of years, and that, since the Treaty of Paris especially, they had looked to the West for encouragement and support.

That last year they had abstained from throwing themselves into the struggle with which the Porte had grappled with so much difficulty; that they were now abandoned by Europe, without a voice being raised in their favour, to the mercy of the Turks, who would infallibly devastate the Danubian districts of Wallachia so soon as the Russian armies were in movement, and push on, perhaps with Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, even to the suburbs of the capital.

That last year, when in office, he had repelled menaces, promises, and inducements of every sort held out to them from St. Petersburgh, but that they were now, by the force of circumstances, thrown into the arms of Russia.

I asked the Minister what he proposed should be done by the Guaranteeing Powers, such as Austria and England.

He replied that pressure might be put upon the Porte to abstain from carrying the war on to Roumanian territory.

I answered that the Treaties, however unpalatable it might be to Roumanians to hear it, recognized these Principalities as quite as much an integral part of the Ottoman Empire as the Vilayet of the Danube; and that, were representations possible, the Porte is not now in a temper to entertain even a suggestion.

The Minister admitted that I had some justice, but remarked bitterly that just at this moment should have occurred a declaration in the House of Commons that the Treaties, &c., could take no cognizance of Roumanian neutrality.

He went on, that had it been thought of before, negotiations might have been entered into with a view to exacting of the Turkish Government that several strategical positions alone should have been occupied.

In this statement M. Cogalniceano went strangely astray; M. Bratiano would never of his own good will, or, indeed, in respect of their relations to Russia, have entertained such propositions. How often have both the Minister President and M. Jonesco repeated to me that "they would never tolerate the presence of a Turk upon Roumanian soil," nor, indeed, would the Chambers or public opinion have acquiesced in such an arrangement.

M. Cogalniceano went on, that although the force at Kalafat is in much peril, the honour of the country and the army demanded that every exertion should be made to hold the position.

I observed that if they succeeded in holding the position, which, in a military point of view, against the force which could be launched from Widdin, is next to an impossibility, they would be doing so to the advantage of Russian strategy.

The Minister replied, "Not at all, we should not give it up to the Russians;" but, as your Lordship will at once perceive, such a statement is utterly absurd, for at the first pressure urging a military necessity the position would, of course, pass under Russian command.

It would be useless to take up your Lordship's time with the many inconsistencies into which M. Cogalniceano, in the warmth of his language and despair for his country, allowed himself to run, and I should have been more disposed to sympathize with his emotion, had I not been aware that he held very different language to my Austrian colleague no further off than yesterday.

On that occasion he became, it may be said, almost abusive, denouncing the cowardice of the Great Powers, and their monstrous barbarity in allowing a defenceless Christian country, which had merited so well of Europe, to be devastated by hordes of Asiatic barbarians, &c.

On quitting me, the Minister said that he feared that England would regret that nothing was being done to save Roumania from the Turks; that Russian influence must now be paramount in the East for years to come, &c.

I remarked that I differed from him on that subject, that Russian influence had, at infinite pains, been fostered for years among the Oriental Christians by gifts of money, the agitations of Consuls, and ecclesiastical intrigues, and with what result? In Servia and Bulgaria Russia finds little genuine sympathy—that I had it from various authentic sources; even Baron Stuart, who certainly would not be inclined to underrate Russian influence, had observed to me not long since, that, notwithstanding all that had been done in the way of assistance during long years, gratuitous education, &c., for Bulgarians and Servians, they merely looked to Russia as the means to an end; that I was aware that lately in this country, in the Cabinet and in the Chamber, there was a Russian current, but that it had no echo out of doors, and that I had not the least fear of Russian influence permanently invading a country with a free press, and democratic institutions pushed so far as is the case in these Principalities.

The drift of M. Cogalniceano's argument in trying to conjure up to me a spectre of

the future prestige of Russia in the East was thoroughly transparent, and was reasoning which, he doubtless considered, must tell upon an English ear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 652.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1877, 8 A.M.

THE following telegram has been received from Consul at Rustchuk:—

"Vice-Consul at Sulina telegraphs:—

"'Russians at Issaktcha have stopped all communication by Danube to Galatz. 'Cockatrice' at Sulina.'"

No. 653.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1877, 9 A.M.

CONSUL at Rustchuk informs me that nothing has been heard of Admiral Hobart since he steamed down the Danube on the morning of the 25th. Communication with him is impossible, as he is probably enagaged in operations on the Lower Danube.

No. 654.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

COLONEL LENNOX suggests that he should be officially accredited by your Lordship to the Turkish army as British Military Attaché now that war has begun. Will you instruct me upon the subject?

No. 655.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, April* 30, 1877, 10 A.M.

RUSSIAN Agent here says that the Russian fleets from the Atlantic, Pacific and China, in all 27 iron-clads, will shortly unite in the Mediterranean, and that there is an understanding between England and Russia as to the passage of the China fleet through Canal.

Red Sea ports are at the mercy of the Russians.

Russian Agent leaves at once.

Chamber of Delegates will decide to-day or to-morrow amount of assistance that Egypt can send Turkey.

No. 656.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, April* 30, 1877, 11·10 A.M.

I LEARN from a good source that the Russian Minister expressed a strong desire on the part of his Government that Persia should side with Russia in the present war, but has not submitted definite proposals pending reply demanded as to attitude which Persia has decided upon pursuing.

I further learn that no reply has yet been given on the point unless by inference, the

Russian Minister having asked Persia if she would sanction provisions being furnished to their troops near the frontier if needed, and having been informed that she would not agree to this unless made applicable to the belligerent Powers.

No. 657.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

TURKISH Government have given notice to German Government that they have decided upon expelling all Russian subjects from Turkish Empire. They state that they would with much pleasure see Russian subjects and interests under German protection, but that in consequence of the privileges under the Capitulations being insisted on in their favour it is impossible for them to do so. Notice will be given to-day for all Russian subjects in Constantinople to leave Turkish territory within twelve days; those in the provinces within twenty-one. It is anticipated that German Government will be irritated by this decision, but the Porte pleads that it has the recognized international right to take this step; that France took it during the German war; and that the pretension to secure the Russians the protection of the Capitulations renders it absolutely necessary.

No. 658.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 3·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

TURKISH Government request me to inform your Lordship that as they have found themselves compelled to adopt the measure of sending out of the country all Russian subjects, they will not avail themselves of Her Majesty's Government's kind consent to take Turkish subjects and interests in Russia under their protection.

Musurus Pasha is instructed to make a communication in this sense to your Lordship, and at the same time to express to Her Majesty's Government the gratitude of that of the Sultan for their ready acquiescence in their request, which was made before war had been actually commenced by Russia.

No. 659.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1877, 2·40 P.M.

I HAVE the following on trustworthy authority.

A fleet of sixteen ships, large and small, including four iron-clad broadside frigates, will be sent as soon as possible by the Turkish Government into the Mediterranean, as they apprehend that Russia will make at least a demonstration on that side, and perhaps endeavour to raise Crete.

Seventeen large torpedoes, containing each 1,000 lbs. of powder, are now being laid down at the Black Sea entrance of the Bosphorus. They are not dangerous to shipping unless fired by observation from the shore, as they have no circuit closing apparatus. After these torpedoes are laid down, others will be placed in the Dardanelles at Smyrna and Salonica, and off Crete.

No. 660.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 5·2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 30, 1877, 4·25 P.M.

ON further reflection Italian Government have decided not to answer Russian Circular of the 19th instant.

No. 661.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

A TELEGRAM has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting that he has been requested by the Turkish Government to state that, as they have found themselves compelled to adopt measures for sending out of the country all Russian subjects, they will not avail themselves of Her Majesty's Government's kind consent to take Turkish subjects and interests in Russia under their protection. They, therefore, withdraw their request, which was made before war had been actually commenced by Russia.

Inform Consuls.

No. 662.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

WITH reference to your telegram of 30th, I have come to no understanding with Russia respecting passage of China fleet through Canal, as stated by Russian Agent.

No. 663.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April* 30, 1877.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assures me solemnly that this Government has no intention to declare war against the Porte, suspend relations, or even refuse tribute. As soon as all fear of Turkish incursion is passed, all reserves will be sent home.

No. 664.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 30, 1877, 2 P.M.

IMPERIAL Government assent to Turkish subjects in Russia being placed under protectorate of Great Britain during the war. I have accordingly addressed a Circular of notification to Her Majesty's Consuls.

No. 665.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives Abroad.

(Telegraphic) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

THE Queen's Proclamation of Neutrality in the war between Russia and Turkey issued to-day.

It is similar to the Proclamation in regard to the Franco-German war, issued on the 9th of August, 1870.

Inform Consuls.

No. 666.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 159.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has informed me by telegraph that he has been requested by the Turkish Govern-

ment to state that they do not propose to avail themselves of the consent of Her Majesty's Government to take Turkish subjects in Russia under their protection, as the Porte has now determined to send out of Turkish territory all Russian subjects.

They therefore withdraw their request, which was made before war had been actually commenced by Russia.

You will inform Her Majesty's Consuls accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 667.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Fenton.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

THE Netherlands Minister called at the Foreign Office to-day, and stated that he was instructed to inform Her Majesty's Government verbally that his Government had communicated to the Russian and Turkish Governments their firm determination to observe strict neutrality in the war between Russia and Turkey, and to defend it with arms if necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 668.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22, Political, of the 13th instant, reporting on the alleged case of impalement of Rado Buyich, and with regard to your suggestion that your Austrian colleague might be associated with you in undertaking a personal investigation of the truth of this matter, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government cannot suggest to the Austrian Government what instructions should be sent to their Consul.

The services of Mr. Freeman may, however, possibly be available after he has completed his inquiry into the Otchievo outrage, and you may therefore authorize him to investigate the case of Rado Buyich if he can be spared from his post for a sufficient time.

It will be better that you should not yourself quit your post for any considerable period, unless circumstances should render it necessary for you to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 669.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 9. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

I APPROVE the language used by you to the Governor-General regarding the case of a girl from the village of Bakrick who had embraced the Mussulman faith, as reported in your despatch No. 18, Political, of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

END

No. 670.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 10. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch, Political, No. 23 of the 13th instant, I have to express to you my approval of your having called the attention of the Governor-General to recent cases of murder and outrage reported to have occurred in Bosnia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 671.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received April* 30.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, April* 30, 1877.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram received from the Admiral Superintendent at Malta, dated this day:—

"Following telegraphic communication from Commanding Officer 'Cockatrice,' Sulina Mouth, night before last:—'Russia stopped navigation river here.'"

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.